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**Fifty-seventh session**
Item 67 (g) of the preliminary list*
**General and complete disarmament**

# Missiles

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 56/24 B of 29 November 2001, entitled "Missiles", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of all Member States on the issue of missiles in all its aspects and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

2. By a note verbale dated 15 February 2002, all Member States were invited to communicate their views on the issue. To date, five Member States have replied. Their responses are reproduced in section II below. Any replies received subsequently will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Member States

## Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2002]

Resolutions 56/24 B, 56/24 S and 56/21 are of benefit and importance to a world in search of peace, security and freedom from the scourge of war, by avoiding the danger of a nuclear war, pending agreement by nuclear-weapon States to submit their facilities to the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). To this end, the issue of a reasonable balance of forces must be handled in such a way as to permit all States of the world to have an acceptable limit of offensive capability.

## Israel

[Original: English]
[30 May 2002]

### General comments

1. In recent years the level of ballistic missile exports to the Middle East has risen dramatically, creating a major threat to our national security. Various bilateral efforts were important in slowing down some of the flow of missile transfers, but ultimately, these transfers continue. External supply has dramatically enhanced the menace posed by the presence and the development of ballistic missiles capable of carrying conventional and non-conventional warheads that threaten Israel and regional stability as a whole.

2. Certain countries have not indicated any willingness to curb such programmes and all the factors point to an ongoing determination to expand and improve the range and capability of these missiles. We have seen no effective restraints on the transfer of whole missiles, sub-systems, components, training and ballistic missile expertise to our region in recent years.

3. In addition, we have observed a trend whereby countries of concern in the region that have acquired ballistic missiles and their related technology are now in the process of providing missile assistance to other countries in the region, complementing the assistance those countries already obtain from other external suppliers.

4. Israel has spared no effort in highlighting the current disturbing trends of ballistic missile exports to countries of concern in the Middle East in its relevant diplomatic exchanges and dialogues in recent years.

5. As a country that suffered a number of ballistic missile attacks against civilian population centres during the Gulf war, Israel believes that any international effort on the missile issue should strive to enhance regional security and contribute to a stronger sense of national security, especially of States subject to threats by others.

6. In this regard, high priority should be accorded to the effort to reduce and mitigate the considerable ballistic missile threat to our region by preventing exports of ballistic missiles, their components and related technology, to and between the relevant States.

7. Bearing in mind this growing threat of ballistic missile attacks, the development of missile defence systems by threatened States is justifiable and should be regarded as a natural expression of the right to self-defence enshrined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. Accordingly, it is critical that the international community contend with the complex reality of ballistic missile proliferation in regions like the Middle East and prevent the continuation of such exports.

### Practical measures

8. Israel supports, in principle, any genuine initiative designed to effectively prevent ballistic missile proliferation, particularly in the Middle East,

where this problem has intensified in recent years. One of our central concerns remains the manner in which the international community can narrow existing and expanding missile threats through the strengthening of export controls in the missile area.

9. Israel has been an adherent to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) for the past decade, complies with its provisions faithfully and fully supports the aims and objectives of the regime. In seeking to enhance cooperation in this field, we should ensure that new international initiatives do not weaken the export restraints contained in the MTCR.

10. Confidence-building measures could be useful in the missile context. Their objective is to enhance the sense of security of States and reduce threats and tensions. Bearing in mind the varying circumstances in different regions, we believe that the building of confidence must primarily begin at the regional level. A realistic approach would be to identify agreed-upon measures by the parties in a given region that could contribute to the stability and security of all States.

11. Transparency is often proposed as a confidence-building measure, but its application must take into account particular regional circumstances. In order to build confidence, any transparency measure must be considered in the light of its impact on regional stability. While transparency can be a positive measure, it cannot be considered the exclusive means to build confidence.

12. Other potential steps or confidence-building measures on a regional level in this regard could be:

(a) The use of basic policy dialogues between regional parties to try and defuse tensions, mutual suspicions and distrust connected to missile proliferation;

(b) Regional workshops that could encourage a wider and more comprehensive regional dialogue on security matters and the development of regional confidence-building measures in the missile area;

(c) Refraining from transferring missiles and related technology to other (regional) States and non-State entities, including terrorist organizations.

13. In attempting to establish a list of agreed-upon regional confidence-building measures, other measures of restraint can and should be adopted. One such measure is the implementation of effective export controls by each State that would limit the export of ballistic missiles and their related technologies. Israel believes that such export control regulations should be harmonized with the MTCR provisions.

14. Different initiatives on missiles that have been introduced in recent years include elements regarding cooperation between countries for the peaceful use of space. As a space-faring nation, Israel would be willing to contribute to and participate in cooperative activities in this field. Any cooperative measure, however, must be carefully considered, controlled and monitored in order to prevent diversion to missile programmes. In any event, cooperation should not become a reward for proliferation.

## Japan

[Original: English]
[15 April 2002]

1. Missiles are an extremely effective means of delivery for weapons of mass destruction. Ballistic missiles, in particular, are characterized by short flight time, high speed and the extreme difficulty of establishing an effective defence against them. When weapons of mass destruction are coupled with missiles, they become a real threat to international peace and security.

2. Weapons of mass destruction are prohibited under the existing multilateral agreements, with the exception of nuclear weapons in the hands of nuclear-weapon States. However, weapons of mass destruction have in fact proliferated, and the risk of further proliferation cannot be excluded, as shown in past cases of non-compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

3. In the past decade, an increasing number of countries have come to possess missiles, in particular ballistic missiles, despite — or perhaps due to — the demise of the cold war.

4. It is under these circumstances that the issue of missiles, especially that of ballistic missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, has become imminent and gained ever greater attention in the deliberations of the international community. In Japan's view, therefore, the most urgent aspect relating to missiles is their proliferation, both in the global and in the regional context. In the discussion of the United

Nations panel of experts, this aspect should be given the highest priority.

5. Based on the above observations, Japan considers that the following points should be incorporated into the final report of the United Nations panel of experts:

(a) The fact that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is taking place in tandem with the proliferation of ballistic missiles is the major cause of concern for the maintenance of international peace and security. Therefore the efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of ballistic missiles should be a matter of high priority in the deliberations of the panel;

(b) The issue of choice of forum is of secondary importance compared to the substance of the missile issues themselves. The efforts undertaken on various tracks, including that for the International Code of Conduct, should be viewed as complementary and reinforcing, and not as exclusive, to the panel discussions; in other words, the efforts to tackle the issue of missiles should be multilayered;

(c) Confidence-building measures on missiles should take into consideration the specific security requirements in each region. Confidence-building measures may work under certain conditions, but it should be noted that in some cases the application of confidence-building measures of some kind could have adverse implications for regional security situations. Thus, it should be carefully examined whether a specific measure contributes to enhancing regional and global security or not;

(d) Space Launch Vehicle technologies are inherently similar to those of ballistic missiles. Therefore, countries claiming to be engaging in Space Launch Vehicle activities should be in full compliance with the existing treaties relating to weapons of mass destruction as well as space-related conventions. They should furthermore be responsible for ensuring that their space activities are not used to conceal ballistic missile programmes. Effective transparency measures and verification mechanisms in this context may be worth considering;

(e) The role of export controls should not be underestimated as a practical tool to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. More countries should join these endeavours by establishing effective national export controls and other measures to this end.

## Lebanon

[Original: English]
[11 April 2002]

The Government of Lebanon cannot provide comments on the issue of missiles since it does not possess this type of military equipment.

## Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[9 May 2002]

1. The resolution includes a request to the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of missiles in all its aspects because there is a need for a comprehensive approach towards missiles, in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner, that can contribute to the achievement of international peace and security.

2. The matter raised is a major, ramified and complex one in view of the fact that it addresses the issue of missiles in all its aspects, and especially when the security concerns of Member States at the international and regional levels and countering the development and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are taken into consideration. We are therefore of the view that it is difficult to identify the missiles that should be studied in all their aspects in view of the variety of their types and the varying character of the operations in which they are used.

3. The study should include a statement of the technical specifications of missiles and their various types (conventional, unguided missiles; and short-range, medium-range, ballistic and anti-missile guided missiles). It should also cover the question of whether such missiles can carry warheads of substances of mass destruction (chemical, biological or radiological) or conventional warheads.

4. So as to make it possible to elaborate a comprehensive concept of the request to the Secretary-General, we propose that a meeting of governmental experts from Member States, specialists in the munitions and missiles field, should be held under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in order to identify the types of missiles that might constitute a threat to international peace and security, especially those whose warheads can carry weapons of mass destruction, and

that they should be presented to Member States for comment before they are included in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session under the item entitled "Missiles".

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**Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly**

# Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

This report provides information on the deliberations and major activities of the intergovernmental bodies responsible for reviewing follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session on social development. The report also focuses on the outcomes of the intergovernmental conferences and summits organized since the twenty-fourth special session and their link with activities to promote the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action adopted at the World Summit and the further initiatives of the twenty-fourth special session. In addition, the report provides information on relevant activities of the Division for Social Policy and Development to promote implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and the special session.

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# I. Introduction

1. The present report responds to General Assembly resolution 56/177 of 19 December 2001, in which the Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report. This is the latest in a series of reports to provide information on activities undertaken to promote social development since the holding of the World Summit in 1995.[1] The reports submitted to the General Assembly during the two years since the twenty-fourth special session in June 2000 focused on follow-up at the national level and on activities undertaken by the United Nations system to implement the outcomes of the World Summit and the special session.

# II. Overview of follow-up undertaken in intergovernmental bodies

## A. General Assembly

2. The debate at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" took place for the first time within the Third Committee. The item had been considered in plenary sessions of the General Assembly since 1995. Representatives of more than 50 countries as well as of a number of international organizations addressed the issue, which took on greater intensity and urgency as a result of the events of 11 September. Several speakers referred to the increased need for social development and poverty eradication to promote just and stable societies and to address the root causes of terrorism, in particular as they relate to poverty, disempowerment, inequality and social exclusion. Reference was made to the proclamation of 2001 as the International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and the need to reduce the gap in understanding among peoples of different nationalities and religious beliefs.

3. It was noted that the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session were reinforced by the adoption of the Millennium Declaration[2] and that the social agenda was integral to all development efforts. The importance of integrating social and economic policy, which would be the priority theme of the Commission for Social Development at its fortieth session, was highlighted. Other critical objectives included: fostering an enabling environment for social development; promoting social justice and equity; ensuring adequate social protection; and reducing vulnerability. It was also considered important to promote the sharing of experiences and best practices in these areas.

4. Delegations addressed numerous specific social development concerns, such as the spread of HIV/AIDS and continued widespread illiteracy. Many speakers referred to the impact of rapid globalization, which had widened socio-economic disparities among countries of the world and, in some cases, increased marginalization and exclusion. While economic progress had been achieved, it represented islands of prosperity in an ocean of unspeakable poverty. The pressures of globalization also made it difficult for some countries to implement the outcomes of the World Summit and the special session.

5. By adopting resolution 56/177, the General Assembly, inter alia, also encouraged coordinated and mutually reinforcing follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action adopted at the World Summit,[3] the further initiatives of the special session and the Millennium Declaration. The Assembly took note of the *Report on the World Social Situation, 2001*[4] and requested the Secretary-General to submit future reports on a biennial basis.

6. In related action, in its resolution 56/211 of 21 December 2001, the General Assembly considered the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, welcomed the adoption of resolution 2001/21 by the Economic and Social Council and decided that it would examine how best to address the reviews of the implementation of their outcomes, including their format and periodicity.

7. Another related activity was the observance of 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers, declared by the General Assembly to heighten public awareness and support for volunteerism. During the year, more than 120 national committees hosted activities to

promote volunteerism in 200 cities. At its fifty-sixth session, the Assembly devoted plenary meetings on 5 December 2001 to mark the observance of the year. Discussions focused on ways the United Nations system and Governments could support volunteering. In this regard, on 5 December 2001, the Assembly adopted resolution 56/38, which contained recommendations on support for volunteering,[5] commended the ongoing contributions of all volunteers to society, encouraged all people to become more engaged in voluntary activities and decided that on 5 December 2002, International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, two plenary meetings at the fifty-seventh session will be devoted to discussions on the outcome of the International Year of Volunteers and its follow-up.

## B. Economic and Social Council

8. The Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2001, considered the question of integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and adopted resolution 2001/21, in which, inter alia, it recalled that the goals and targets in the economic, social and related fields contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, supplemented by the outcomes of their reviews, constitute a comprehensive basis for actions at the national, regional and international levels. The Council decided to strengthen links with relevant functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, in follow-up to conferences and summits, by reviewing progress in the implementation of cross-cutting issues. It also decided to strengthen links with the General Assembly by bringing to its attention overall policy issues that might emerge from such follow-up and might require its consideration.

9. To improve the working methods of its functional commissions, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2001/27 of 26 July 2001, which, inter alia, encouraged the commissions to consider how best to ensure continuity in the work of their successive bureaux, to continue to keep their working methods under review and to share more systematically the outcome of their work. The Council also invited the commissions to provide further inputs into its work on means of implementation, including the role of resource mobilization, capacity-building, research and data collection and information- and knowledge-sharing in their respective areas, with a particular focus on impact, gaps, good practices and lessons learned and the types of capacity-building most commonly sought in the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit.

## C. Commission for Social Development

10. The Commission for Social Development held its fortieth session in New York from 11 to 21 and 27 February 2002. The Commission undertook its annual review of progress achieved and lessons learned in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session in the context of its consideration of the priority theme, "Integration of social and economic policy". To prepare for the Commission's discussion of the priority theme, the Secretariat organized three expert workshops on the sub-themes identified in the Commission's multi-year programme of work: a meeting on "Expenditures in the social sector as a productive factor", which was organized in cooperation with the Government of Costa Rica and held at San José from 11 to 13 June 2001; a meeting on "Social assessment as a policy tool", which was organized in cooperation with the Government of Bulgaria and held at Sofia from 30 October to 1 November 2001; and a meeting on the "Social impact of macroeconomic policy", which was held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 7 November 2001. Each meeting produced a report, excerpts from which were annexed to the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission.[6]

11. During the general debate, speakers provided national experiences and perspectives on specific topics related to the priority theme as well as to other cross-cutting issues relating to social development. Panel discussions, a segment for the participation of non-governmental organizations and a question and answer segment with selected entities of the United Nations system were organized to open the discussions to a broad range of actors and to increase opportunities for the exchange of experiences.

12. After lengthy discussions, the Commission adopted agreed conclusions on its priority theme.[7] The

agreed conclusions were transmitted to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration and as a contribution to the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2002. They were also transmitted to the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

13. In the agreed conclusions, the Commission reaffirmed the interdependence between social and economic policies and the importance of promoting their integration. It stated the importance of broadening the scope of sound macroeconomic policy to integrate social and economic policy. In order to achieve this, better understanding of the causal linkages between macroeconomic policy and social impact was required. Social impact analysis and assessments were useful tools to promote a more participatory and people-centred process of policy-making as well as to provide a social perspective in policy conceptualization and analysis. Investments in the social sectors are productive investments. The establishment and enhancement by Governments of social security systems and access to basic social services for all are important components of social development policies. Social safety nets should not preclude the creation of a comprehensive social protection/social security system.

14. The Commission stated that social sector expenditure should be linked to the achievement of the social development goals included in the outcome documents of the World Summit for Social Development, the twenty-fourth special session and the Millennium Summit. It recognized that substantial increases in official development assistance (ODA) and other resources were required for developing countries to achieve agreed development goals and objectives.

15. The Commission invited Governments to adopt holistic, integrated, comprehensive and consistent public policies to further development, eradicate poverty, fulfil the commitments of the World Summit for Social Development and the further initiatives of the twenty-fourth special session and attain the Millennium Declaration development goals. Actions that Governments could take included: improving and restructuring national tax regimes and administration to establish equitable and efficient systems and, inter alia, taking measures to reduce tax evasion; promoting and enhancing fiscal and financial sector reforms for better domestic resource mobilization and reallocating public resources for investment in social development; incorporating social impact analysis into the budget formulation process and improving efficiency and effectiveness in government expenditures; developing or strengthening mechanisms to promote broad-based dialogue and coordination among all government bodies responsible for socio-economic policy formulation; forging partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the financing and provision of social services; promoting a gender-sensitive and participatory approach through the involvement of communities, non-governmental organizations and social partners as well as vulnerable or disadvantaged groups in the formulation and implementation of development strategies; and creating and/or strengthening institutions for social and economic research, evaluation and policy-making.

16. The Commission invited relevant funds and programmes, organizations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, as well as multilateral and bilateral donors, to continue assisting and strengthening their cooperation with the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, in their social and economic development efforts, inter alia, by: strengthening their capacities to address the obstacles that hinder their participation in an increasingly globalized economy; providing technical and financial assistance, upon request, to strengthen national capacities to integrate social and economic policy and to achieve social development objectives; cooperating to further improve policies and development strategies, both nationally and internationally, to enhance aid effectiveness; urging developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of GNP as ODA to least developed countries and encouraging developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively; implementing development-oriented and durable solutions to external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries; supporting and conducting research, in particular empirical research and social impact assessment, to evaluate the interaction between social and economic policies, to reconcile policy agendas and to examine more closely the mechanisms by which social expenditures act as a productive factor in social

and economic development; ensuring coordination and the full and active participation of the United Nations system in efforts to promote social development; and promoting and facilitating greater regional cooperation and sharing of experiences within the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, and within other regional organizations.

17. The Commission noted that the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration are, to a large extent, derived from the commitments undertaken at the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session and that, therefore, promotion of those commitments supports the achievement of the goals of the Millennium Declaration. In particular, concerning the goal of the Millennium Declaration to create an environment conducive to development and the elimination of poverty, it was noted that the concept of an enabling environment for social development was first established at the World Summit, and that the outcome documents of both the Summit and the special session contain a comprehensive catalogue of recommendations that define and promote such an enabling environment.

18. Efforts to eradicate poverty are integral to the Commission's ongoing follow-up to the World Summit and the twenty-fourth special session, as well as to the implementation of the goals of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006). The goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people living in absolute poverty by 2015 was first adopted by the international community at the twenty-fourth special session, which also invited the Economic and Social Council to consolidate ongoing initiatives and actions with a view to launching a global campaign to eradicate poverty. As part of its multi-year programme of work, the Commission will undertake a review of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty in 2006.

19. At the twenty-fourth special session, the General Assembly specifically requested the Economic and Social Council to consider, through the Commission for Social Development, ways of sharing experiences and practices in social development, in order to assist Member States in the development of policies to promote the goals of the World Summit. In this context, it is noted that the Commission, at its forty-first session in 2003, will address the sub-theme "Sharing experiences and practices in social development" as part of its deliberations on the priority theme "National and international cooperation for social development".

## III. Linkages with other United Nations conferences and summits

20. The World Summit for Social Development, which was held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, adopted the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action to promote social development globally. The General Assembly held its twenty-fourth special session, entitled, "World Summit for Social Development and Beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000. The special session marked the five-year review of the World Summit and renewed attention to important issues of global social development.

21. The three core issues discussed at the World Summit and the special session were: the eradication of poverty; the promotion of full and productive employment; and the enhancement of social integration. In addition, commitments were made and initiatives were launched to: promote an enabling environment for social development in order to achieve equality and equity between women and men; promote human resource development, in particular in the areas of education and health care; accelerate the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries; improve structural adjustment programmes; increase and utilize more efficiently the resources allocated to social development; and strengthen frameworks for cooperation at the international, regional and subregional levels. All these issues are interrelated and closely connected, and they concern all countries, regardless of their level of development.

22. Since the twenty-fourth special session, the United Nations has organized conferences and summits on a wide range of development issues. All of these meetings derived at least part of their agendas from the issues that concerned the World Summit and the special session. Each, in turn, has encouraged continued and concerted action for social development at national and international levels. There is a clear and close link between the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and the special session and the promotion and follow-up to these conferences and

summits. The sections that follow reflect upon how the core issues of the social development agenda have influenced and, in turn, been influenced by, the convening of United Nations conferences and summits during the past two years.

## A. Millennium Summit

23. At the Millennium Summit of the General Assembly, held in September 2000, the Assembly adopted, in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Declaration reiterated values and principles, set out goals and objectives of the international community and embodied a number of specific commitments to improve conditions for all people in the new century. As noted by the Commission for Social Development, the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration to a large extent derived from the commitments undertaken at the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session.

24. Among the many areas of convergence between the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the Programme of Action and the Millennium Summit, the area of primary concern is the eradication of poverty. Poverty remains the fundamental problem of mankind and one of the most significant results of the World Summit was to place the goal of eradicating poverty at the centre of national and international policy agendas. For the first time there was talk of ridding the world of the injustice of poverty. This sentiment is echoed in the Millennium Declaration: "We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want."

25. The commitment to eradicate poverty, adopted at the Copenhagen Summit and reiterated five years later at the Millennium Summit, has increasingly influenced the policies and planning of Governments and of bilateral and multilateral development partners. Many Governments have set national poverty reduction targets and formulated poverty eradication plans and strategies, including by promoting employment and developing or reinforcing tools to evaluate progress. Progress has been uneven, however, revealing continuing disparities in access to basic social services, including a lack of access to quality education. Of particular concern is the increasing feminization of poverty and the uneven access for girls to education.

26. Among the targets endorsed by the twenty-fourth special session was the reduction of the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half by 2015. This target was taken up at the Millennium Summit, which resolved to halve the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than $1 a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015 and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.

27. With regard to specific actions to promote poverty eradication, the twenty-fourth special session encouraged Governments to implement pro-poor growth strategies to develop and utilize the potential of people living in poverty. An important step is to focus on how people in poverty define their situation and their needs. Many people may consider certain aspects of poverty, including social exclusion, insecurity or lack of dignity, to be just as important as insufficient income and policies to fight poverty must take these views into account. It is important that anti-poverty policies treat people as active participants, rather than passive recipients, and that they seek to empower people and assist them to integrate into society and the labour force. The goal should be to provide people with opportunities rather than benefits. These efforts can be supported by action to achieve targets relating to access to primary education and basic health services.

## B. Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries

28. The Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, which was held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001, reviewed the socio-economic progress in the least developed countries during the 1990s and the progress made in international support measures during that decade and adopted the Brussels Declaration[8] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.[9] The Programme of Action contains commitments at the national and international levels on policies and measures to accelerate the development process in those countries, drawing on experiences and lessons learnt and building on the outcome of recent

conferences and summits in the specific context of the least developed countries.

29. The overarching goal of the Programme of Action is to make substantial progress towards halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and suffering from hunger by 2015 and to promote the sustainable development of the least developed countries. This goal echoes the objective of the Millennium Declaration in the context of the least developed countries. It is supported by the commitments undertaken at the World Summit for Social Development and in the further initiatives for social development adopted at the twenty-fourth special session.[10]

30. The World Summit for Social Development was particularly noteworthy because it devoted a specific commitment to Africa and the least developed countries. Commitment 7 set out to accelerate the economic, social and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries. The further initiatives agreed upon at the special session established a range of activities across various sectors to achieve this commitment. Promoting achievement of these further initiatives will also promote implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. Among its recommendations, the special session called upon Governments to promote an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of Africa and the least developed countries into the global economy and promote their participation in the multilateral trading system. It stressed the importance of strengthening capacities through improved education and human resource development and enhancing productive capacity and competitiveness, which should encourage skilled and highly educated Africans to remain in the region and should utilize and further develop their skills.

31. Regarding enhancing the flow of resources, in the further initiatives adopted at the special session, the Assembly: urged developed countries to strive to fulfil, as soon as possible, the agreed target of earmarking 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of GNP as ODA for the least developed countries; encouraged creditor countries to implement bilateral debt relief arrangements; stressed that debt relief should contribute to national development objectives, including poverty eradication; stated that priority should be accorded to the least developed countries in the allocation of resources on concessional terms for economic and social development; encouraged the United Nations to enhance the provision of technical cooperation to these countries; and called for strengthened South-South cooperation. At the special session, the Assembly went on to call upon donor Governments and international organizations to encourage investment in critical infrastructure services, including reconstruction in post-conflict and natural disaster situations, invited Governments in these countries to utilize infrastructure investments to promote employment and suggested that food-for-work activities in low-income food-deficit countries could be strengthened.

32. To improve health care, the special session called for support and assistance for research and development centres in the field of vaccines, medicine and public health, thereby strengthening training of medical personnel and counsellors, improving control and treatment of communicable and infectious diseases and assisting in making vaccines and medicines widely available at affordable prices. It called for greater support to African Governments in expanding and strengthening programmes related to young people and HIV/AIDS, in the provision of key services linked to social security, care and support, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, reduction of mother-to-child transmission, access to voluntary and confidential counselling and testing and support of behavioural change and responsible sexual behaviour.

## C. World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

33. The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was held at Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001.[11] The Conference adopted the Durban Declaration,[12] which affirmed

> "that all peoples and individuals constitute one human family, rich in diversity. They have contributed to the progress of civilizations and cultures that form the common heritage of humanity. Preservation and promotion of tolerance, pluralism and respect for diversity can produce more inclusive societies".

The Declaration and the Programme of Action[12] provided Governments, international, regional and

national agencies and organizations and all others concerned with a comprehensive approach to combating discrimination and other hurtful practices that threaten solidarity and social integration.

34. The outcome of the World Conference serves to promote the notion of social integration. One of the most far-reaching achievements of the World Summit for Social Development was to introduce this notion into international policy discourse. At Copenhagen, social integration was understood as the aim of creating "a society for all", in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play. Social integration was not the attempt to make people adjust to society, but rather the attempt to make society accept all people. The aim was to foster social cohesion while recognizing and protecting diversity.

35. The twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly recognized that social integration is a prerequisite for creating harmonious, peaceful and inclusive societies, a concept which was also fundamental to the World Conference. While social integration cannot be universally defined, it is clear that promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and non-violence, respect for cultural and religious diversity, elimination of all forms of discrimination, assurance of equal opportunities for access to productive resources and participatory governance are important for social integration. Lack of access to education, the persistence of poverty and unemployment and inequitable access to opportunities and resources can cause social exclusion and marginalization. A growing number of people are afflicted by poverty because of inequitable distribution of opportunities, resources, income and access to employment and social services. This may be the result of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion or other factors. In addition, owing to continued gender-based discrimination and exclusion in many places, women and girls face particular disadvantages.

## D. International Conference on Financing for Development

36. The International Conference on Financing for Development was held at Monterrey from 18 to 22 March 2002.[13] The outcome document, known as the Monterrey Consensus,[14] provides a picture of the new global approach to financing development. The International Conference provided an opportunity for Governments, civil society, the business community and institutional stakeholders to exchange views on global economic issues. According to the Consensus, the response to the challenge of financing for development involves:

> "Mobilizing and increasing the effective use of financial resources and achieving the national and international economic conditions needed to fulfil internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, to eliminate poverty, improve social conditions and raise living standards, and protect our environment, will be our first step in ensuring that the twenty-first century becomes the century of development for all".

37. Financing for development involves more than identifying and mobilizing the necessary resources. It encompasses the entire range of economic issues and activities that affect development. It is a fundamental aspect of the enabling environment for development. The World Summit for Social Development initiated the idea of an enabling environment for social development. It recognized this environment as both economic and political in nature and called for its promotion at both national and international levels. While Governments are primarily responsible for promoting development, many will face difficulties unless there are concerted efforts at the international level to establish a supportive environment. The World Summit recognized that, in order to encourage economic growth and social development in all countries, it was important to promote free trade and increased access to markets, increased financial flows and investment and debt relief. Emphasis was also placed on developing mechanisms at the national level to ensure the benefits of growth were distributed equitably and that people had the opportunity to participate in important decisions. The social impact of these fundamental political and economic issues has been recognized. The twenty-fourth special session gave priority not just to efforts to mobilize financial resources but also to the need to integrate social and economic policies.

38. The twenty-fourth special session also drew attention to ensuring adequate financial resources for social development, recognizing that the mobilization of domestic and international resources is essential for achieving the commitments made in the Copenhagen

Declaration. Recently, increased attention has been paid to the need to utilize resources effectively and efficiently. Many countries suffer from insufficient revenue generation and collection, which jeopardize their ability to finance social services and social protection systems and leaves them unable to invest in human resource development or to face the challenges posed by demographic changes, population shifts and ageing societies.

39. The twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly called for the conducting of a rigorous analysis of the advantages, disadvantages and other implications of proposals for developing new and innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for dedication to social development and poverty eradication programmes. The Monterrey Consensus further elaborated this call, stating,

> "We recognize the value of exploring innovative sources of finance provided that those sources do not unduly burden developing countries. In that regard, we agree to study, in the appropriate forums, the results of the analysis requested from the Secretary-General on possible innovative sources of finance, noting the proposal to use special drawing rights allocations for development purposes".

40. The special session also called for instituting systems to assess and monitor the social impact of macroeconomic policies, particularly in response to financial crises and in the design of reform programmes, as well as for developing national and regional guidelines to assess the social and economic cost of unemployment and poverty based on broad definitions of efficiency and productivity.

## E. Second World Assembly on Ageing

41. The Second World Assembly on Ageing was held at Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002.[15] The World Assembly promoted international discourse in the field of ageing and expanded the concept of social integration defined at the World Summit for Social Development, in particular in its focus on special social needs, by promoting the concept of a "society for all ages". The Assembly thus further refined the Summit's commitments and initiatives in the context of older persons.

42. At the Second World Assembly, Governments set out the blueprint for an international response to the opportunities and challenges presented by population ageing in the twenty-first century. A Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 were adopted.[16] These documents echo many of the goals and elements contained in the outcomes of the World Summit and the twenty-fourth special session. The Plan of Action provides policy makers with concrete recommendations in three main priority areas: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

43. Since demographic changes are expected to be the greatest and most rapid in developing countries, where the population of older persons is expected to quadruple by 2050, the World Assembly recognized the importance of placing ageing in the context of strategies for poverty eradication, as well as efforts to achieve full participation of all developing countries in the world economy. The outcome promotes recognition that ageing is not simply an issue of social security and welfare but of overall development and economic policy as well as a positive approach to ageing and the need to overcome the negative stereotypes associated with it. The Assembly expressed its commitment to the promotion of healthy lifestyles, access to services, investment in social services and ensuring the right of older persons to continue working, should they choose to do so. Emphasis was also placed on the impact of HIV/AIDS on older persons and the enormous contributions they make, particularly in taking care of grandchildren orphaned by the disease.

44. Governments have primary responsibility for implementing the International Plan of Action, in partnership with civil society, the private sector and older persons. International cooperation is essential. National and international follow-up measures should start with mainstreaming issues and concerns of older persons into national development frameworks. Research and technology should be directed at the individual, social and health implications of ageing, particularly in developing countries.

### F. World Summit on Sustainable Development

45. The World Summit on Sustainable Development will be held at Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002. The Summit will evaluate the obstacles to progress and the results achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992,[17] at which Agenda 21 was adopted.[18] The Johannesburg Summit will focus on turning plans into action and will present an opportunity to build on the knowledge gained during the past decade. It thus provides new impetus for commitment of resources and specific action towards achieving global sustainable development.

46. Sustainable development requires integrated action in three areas: economic growth and equity; conserving natural resources and the environment; and social development. Agenda 21 integrated these concerns into a single policy framework. Its proposals and recommendations for action have been expanded and strengthened at other major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the World Summit for Social Development, which called for promotion of people-centred sustainable development as the overall goal of national and international action, and the Millennium Summit.

47. The outcome of the World Summit for Social Development built on the foundation established at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development when it adopted Agenda 21. The five-year review process of both the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (in 1997) and the World Summit for Social Development (in 2000) provided recommendations for further action. The Johannesburg Summit provides a new opportunity for the discussion of universal issues and concerns in the light of changing circumstances. Among these issues are: eradicating poverty; addressing the challenges of globalization; promoting responsible production and consumption patterns; ensuring access to sources of energy; reducing environment-related health problems; and improving access to clean water. Following upon all the major United Nations conferences and summits, the Johannesburg Summit marks the next step in the continuing evolution of the international agenda for sustained and sustainable economic and social development.

## IV. Contributions of the United Nations system

48. The United Nations system has continued to develop and implement programmes and activities to achieve the goals of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session. Many of these activities were summarized in the previous report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on this subject.[19] Recently, a number of organizations and specialized agencies contributed their views on the priority theme of the Commission for Social Development at its fortieth session, "Integration of social and economic policy". The contributing organizations and agencies were the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Those contributions were summarized by the Secretary-General in his report to the Commission for Social Development.[20]

## V. Activities of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

### A. International Forum for Social Development

49. The International Forum for Social Development, a project of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is an effort to promote implementation of the outcomes of recent conferences and summits, in particular the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session. The Forum brings together individuals from Governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society for a dialogue on global development and social progress. Using the theme "Open Societies, Open Economies: Challenges and Opportunities", the

Forum aims to contribute to shaping and orienting the debate on globalization and promoting a more inclusive and equitable global society. A main objective of the Forum is to assist developing countries in implementing their social development objectives and participating in the globalization process. Improving the possibilities for all countries to participate in determining the contours and the processes of globalization should help to render it more democratic, more concerned with the pursuit of the common good and more amenable to achieving development objectives.

50. The first International Forum for Social Development was held in New York on 7 and 8 February 2002. Forty-three participants took part in discussions on "Financing global social development". Among the issues discussed were: the rationale for an international/global financing of social development; whether globalization could be favourable to the financing of social development; and what should be the contours of the financing of social development.

51. After the conclusion of the Forum, its coordinator presented some of the major points discussed before the Commission for Social Development. The financing of social development had become more problematic in recent years, in both developing and developed countries. Governments have had fewer resources for distributive or redistributive measures with a social intent, in spite of the fact that the world has never been richer. The explanation lies in political choices, in the determination of priorities in the distribution and allocation of resources between the public and private sectors. Another issue was the rise of individual freedom and autonomy as both a driving force and a result of globalization. This individualism was part of a historical movement; it was the foundation of the market economy system and one of the conditions for social development. There was concern, however, that this freedom could be expressed in negative ways and result in excessive concentrations of economic, financial and political power. The importance of solidarity within and among societies should be recognized.

52. According to participants at the Forum, financing of social development required the reinforcement of traditional means and policies and the adoption of innovative measures. International financing of social development was a complement to national efforts. Yet, while a global contribution to the financing of social development was necessary, the ultimate determination of social progress and well-being continued to rest at national and local levels, where people interface with institutions.

## B. Youth Employment Network

53. The Secretary-General issued a report to the Millennium Summit entitled, "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century".[21] Among its many proposals was a commitment to establish a Youth Employment Network. The Millennium Declaration also resolved to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.

54. A 12-member panel was created to guide the Youth Employment Network. Meeting for the first time in July 2001, the panel emphasized both immediate action and long-term commitment to achieving the goal on youth employment. The panel was expected to continue working in an advisory capacity. A joint secretariat, with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ILO, provided initial support to the Network. ILO is expected to take the lead in organizing the future work of the Youth Employment Network and to host a permanent secretariat.

55. The panel developed a series of recommendations, implicit in which was the panel's view that youth is an asset, not a problem. Governments were invited to develop national action plans with targets for the creation of jobs and for the reduction of unemployment. In developing their plans, Governments were encouraged to involve young people closely and to integrate their actions for youth employment into a comprehensive employment policy.

56. The panel's recommendations avoided speaking of young people as tomorrow's leaders, but rather as today's partners. Young people ask that their voices be heard, that issues affecting them be addressed and that their roles be recognized. Rather than being viewed as a target group for which employment must be found, they want to be accepted as partners for development, helping to chart a common course and shaping the future for everyone.

57. The panel proposed an approach focusing on four "E"s:

(a) Employability: investing in improved education and vocational training for young people;

(b) Equal opportunities: providing young women with the same opportunities as young men;

(c) Entrepreneurship: making it easier to start and run enterprises to provide more and better jobs for young women and men;

(d) Employment creation: placing employment creation at the centre of macroeconomic policies.

## C. Workshops and seminars

58. As part of its continuing effort to promote implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session, the Division for Social Policy and Development organized regional workshops for capacity-building and networking. Three workshops were organized during the past year: the subregional workshop for the Caribbean on implementation and follow-up to commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development, held at Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, from 26 to 30 November 2001; the workshop for strengthening the subregional network in Central America and the Caribbean for implementation and follow-up to the Social Summit Commitments, held at Havana, from 9 to 11 January 2002; and the follow-up meeting to the interregional workshop on networking and capacity-building for social development in north-east Asia, held in Beijing from 27 to 29 March 2002. Each meeting brought together representatives from Governments and organizations of civil society to discuss the recommendations and initiatives contained in the outcome documents in the context of national and regional circumstances. The goals of the meetings were to increase national capacities to implement policies and programmes for social development and to create and strengthen networks for exchanging experiences and sharing ideas and practices.

# VI. Conclusion

59. Promotion of social development and implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session were encouraged through various activities during the past year. The core issues of the World Summit — the eradication of poverty, the promotion of productive employment and the enhancement of social integration — were largely incorporated in the agendas of most United Nations meetings, in government policies and programmes and in the work programmes of the United Nations system. Integration of social objectives in these spheres demonstrates a continuing firm commitment to achieving the goals of the World Summit, now largely incorporated in the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. **Achieving social development for all, however, requires more than fulfilling development goals, important as these are. Social progress and development also imply qualitative achievements, including increased participation, greater social justice and improved equity in societies, which must be promoted.**

*Notes*

[1] See A/51/348, A/52/305, A/53/211, A/54/211, A/54/220, A/55/344 and A/56/140.

[2] Resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (UN publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.IV.5.

[5] Resolution 56/38, annex.

[6] E/CN.5/2002/3.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 6* (E/2002/26), chap. I, sect. D, resolution 40/1, annex.

[8] A/CONF.191/12.

[9] A/CONF.191/11.

[10] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[11] A/CONF.189/12.

[12] Ibid. chap. I.

[13] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7).

[14] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[15] A/CONF.197/9.

[16] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[17] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda).

[18] Ibid., vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[19] A/56/140.

[20] E/CN.5/2002/3, annex IV.

[21] A/54/2000.

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# United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean continued to organize a growing number of activities in the reporting period. The Centre continued to undertake vigorous fund-raising efforts. During the period under review, the Centre implemented various projects and other activities in its programme of work in consultation with Member States in the region, United Nations agencies, international organizations and NGOs. These included activities dealing with subregional and regional issues, training, and dissemination of information. Attention was particularly focused on activities related to promoting existing firearms and landmine ban-related agreements, notably involving the diplomatic community, members of parliament, law enforcement officers and NGOs. The organization of workshops to inform parliamentarians of the need for and benefits of treaty ratification also occupied the Centre's attention in the second half of 2001.

The Centre devoted considerable attention to support regional initiatives in the area of firearms, notably in support of a regional meeting to follow up on the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Several new activities were initiated by the Centre during the period under review, for example, in the area of anti-personnel landmines, where the Centre played a significant role in supporting activities in cooperation with the United Nations Mine Action Service; and also on projects involving civil-military relations.

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Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, the Centre sought to establish contacts with the United Nations Development Programme and regional organizations, as well as with Member States within and outside the region, with a view to laying the groundwork for cooperation between the Centre and Governments, regional entities, research institutes and non-governmental organizations, as well as to secure funding. Despite the relative success achieved in this regard, the full functioning of the Centre is still hampered by the lack of sufficient core resources to cover operational and administrative costs. It is hoped that, with the strong support of Member States, foundations and other donors, the viability of the Centre will be ensured in the forthcoming years.

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# I. Introduction

1. On 29 November 2001, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 56/25 E, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean". By paragraphs 8 and 9 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, to enable it to carry out its programme of activities, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to the above request. The report covers the activities of the Centre for the period from July 2001 to June 2002. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Centre covering the biennium 2000-2001 appears in annex I to the report.

# II. Functioning and mandate

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986. The Centre functions under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development. The Centre functioned until the end of June 1996, when its operations were suspended due to insufficient voluntary contributions to finance its activities and administrative costs. Following the appointment of the Director of the Centre by the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, and his assumption of office on 1 December 1998, vigorous efforts have been launched to raise funds with a view to revitalizing the activities of the Centre.

4. In pursuit of its mandate, the Centre continued to serve the countries in the region as: (a) a means of promoting subregional, regional and cross-regional activities; (b) a tool to identify synergies between security and development issues; and (c) an instrument for the United Nations in playing a proactive role in the establishment of a more secure environment for social and economic development in the region.

# III. Activities

5. The Centre continued to maintain cooperation and coordination with other United Nations agencies and entities during the period under review. To facilitate cooperation and coordination in Latin America and the Caribbean on matters related to peace, disarmament and development, the Centre continued to explore the possibility of signing memoranda of understanding with regional and subregional organizations. During the reporting period, two memoranda of understanding were signed, both in May 2002: one with the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation (SWEFOR) for cooperation on measures to reduce illegal trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition and other related matters; and another with the United Nations-affiliated University for Peace on joint measures to facilitate cooperation and coordination in Latin America and the Caribbean through research and training activities on matters related to peace, disarmament and development.

6. The activities carried out during the period under review broadly pertained to seven areas: firearms, ammunition and explosives; anti-personnel landmines; conventional weapons; nuclear weapons; chemical weapons; and information and public events.

## A. Firearms, ammunition and explosives

7. The Centre consolidated its Regional Clearing-house Programme on Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives, which serves as a tool to nurture national and regional expertise in the field of practical disarmament through the organization of workshops, training courses and preventive measures at four levels of activity: diplomatic/political, operational, civil society, and weapons destruction and stockpile management. The programme promotes such initiatives as collective and national efforts to control the legal trade and to curb the increasing illicit flow of firearms, ammunition and explosives in the region. Another important aspect of the programme is fostering the

sharing of experience and lessons learned within the region and elsewhere.

### 1. Diplomatic/political level

8. Several events have been organized in cooperation with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS), which has signed Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, setting the legal framework for cooperation between the Centre and CICAD.

9. The Centre has also established contact with the Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials (CIFTA). On 13 December 2001, a representative of the Centre met with CIFTA and CICAD representatives to discuss areas of cooperation and coordination in the work of OAS and the United Nations against illicit trafficking in firearms. In view of the common interests of the two organizations and the similar mandates of their activities, the Consultative Committee proposed that the Consultative Committee and the Centre should sign a memorandum of understanding to identify synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. The proposal is currently under consideration.

10. In cooperation with the Government of Chile, the Centre organized a regional seminar entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean: Evaluation and Follow-up of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects" at Santiago, from 19 to 21 November 2001. This seminar, organized with the financial support of the Governments of Chile and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, represented the beginning of joint efforts of the countries of the region to implement the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted at the 2001 United Nations Conference. The meeting suggested concrete action to: (a) strengthen legal norms and revitalize the role of the States; (b) prevent firearms-related violence; (c) forge subregional and regional cooperation and coordination; and (d) encourage the role of OAS, the United Nations and civil society in the firearms area.

11. At the invitation of the Government of Japan, the Centre participated in an international symposium held at Tokyo from 22 to 26 January 2002 as part of the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The symposium highlighted the need for collaboration between the different actors working on the issue of small arms and light weapons.

12. The Centre also participated in the G8 Lyons/Rome Law Enforcement Working Group meeting held at Vancouver, Canada, from 21 to 25 April 2002 attended by representatives of the G8 member States, CICAD and other representatives of the firearms industry. The Working Group recommended, among other things, that standards and procedures for the stockpile management and appropriate disposal of firearms and explosives should be developed, to include standards for the collection and preservation of evidentiary information, and that those model standards should be reflected in the United Nations firearms destruction handbook developed by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and elsewhere where it might be accessed by law-enforcement and other agencies. The Working Group also noted that the Centre and CICAD had agreed to share best practices in the development of their Small Arms and Light Weapons Administration (SALSA) System with member States of the International Police Organization — Interpol.

13. The Centre and the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation (SWEFOR) organized a seminar from 3 and 5 May 2002 for Central American parliaments as part of their joint project entitled "Parliamentary Information Exchange Initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean". The seminar was held at the University for Peace and was also attended by representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Central American region. In addition, parliamentarians, representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and development agencies from Germany, Spain and Sweden also participated.

14. One of the outcomes of the seminar was the formulation of Central American priorities to be considered during the Third Parliamentary Exchange on Firearm Issues Meeting to be held at Madrid in the second half of 2002. Notably, representatives at the seminar recommended the creation of a White Book on national firearms legislation, in which the Centre is expected to play a role.

### 2. Operational level

15. In continuing to implement the United Nations-OAS Memorandum of Understanding on firearms issues, the Centre organized jointly with CICAD three subregional events during the period under review to build awareness among police officers and customs officials on the 1997 CICAD Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. The first was held on 8 and 9 August 2001 in Port of Spain for Member States of the Caribbean; the second, on 31 October and 1 November 2001 in San José for the countries of Central America and Mexico; and the third from 26 to 28 February 2002 in Brasilia for South American countries. Close to 70 representatives of law enforcement participated in the meetings and familiarized themselves with the different aspects of Model Regulations implementation, as well as sharing views and experiences on practices in their countries for the control of firearms and ammunition.

16. On 16 and 17 May 2002, the Centre and CICAD organized a workshop entitled "Commercial Trade of and Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Ammunition: Training the Trainers in Investigative Techniques". The workshop was also attended by the University for Peace and Interpol, which joined the United Nations/OAS Coordinating Committee in preparing training courses for the law enforcement community in the region. The Coordinating Committee decided to conduct a trial course in February 2003, in which the United Nations and other agencies will be invited to participate.

17. On 25 September 2001, a representative of the Centre visited the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) El Salvador office to assist it in the UNDP project entitled "Strengthening Mechanisms for Small Arms Control". The UNDP project is still in its preparatory phase, involving research, planning and strategy formation.

18. The Centre also held several meetings with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Government of Peru on the organization and implementation of a project proposal entitled "Strengthening Peruvian control over its sea, air and land borders to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in drugs, firearms and ammunition". The proposal has been finalized and fund-raising for the project is expected to start in the second half of 2002.

### 3. Civil society

19. The Centre provided substantive and logistic support to a planning mission to Lima from 28 February to 8 March 2002 with a view to gathering information for the drafting of a project proposal on "Peace and Disarmament Education in Metropolitan Lima", as part of a joint initiative of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Hague Appeal for Peace in the area of disarmament education.

20. On 14-15 May 2002, the first coordination meeting of the project "Latin America and Caribbean NGOs Capacity-building, Networking and Strengthening of their Advocacy Means" was organized by the Centre in Lima. The project, coordinated by the Centre, was undertaken in cooperation with the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, International Alert, Save the Children Sweden, the Small Arms Survey, the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation and Viva Rio. A representative of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict participated as a special guest.

### 4. Weapons destruction and stockpile management

21. At the request of the Governments of Argentina and Brazil, the Centre undertook official missions to Mendoza, Argentina, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, between 15 and 20 April 2002, with the objective of assessing the feasibility of destruction of 13,135 firearms and 8,000 rounds of ammunition in Mendoza and 10,000 firearms in Rio de Janeiro. The missions assessed how the United Nations could help both countries to improve the status of their firearms storage facilities. They also identified the weapons and ammunition to be destroyed, prospective partners to assist in the destruction and subcontractors to prepare and execute the destruction on behalf of the United Nations. The Centre is now holding discussions with several potential donor countries that would assist in the funding of these activities.

22. The Government of Peru has requested the assistance of the United Nations in its implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. On 28 May 2002, the Centre organized a meeting with representatives of the Government to discuss the modalities of United

Nations involvement to carry out (a) weapons destruction, (b) weapons collection, (c) stockpile management, (d) improvement of software programmes for the registration, possession and transfer of firearms, and (e) training of personnel. The Centre is currently finalizing an assessment report on requirements so as to be able to begin the Peruvian assistance project in the second half of 2002.

## B. Anti-personnel landmines

23. The Centre continued to undertake several activities on landmine issues, ranging from the organization of meetings to participation, as observers, in landmine destruction events. On 13 September 2001, a representative from the Centre observed the final destruction of 27,025 anti-personnel landmines in Peru. A total of 310,000 anti-personnel mines were destroyed in six events as a response to the Managua Challenge, which was aimed at the destruction of all landmine stockpiles before the convening of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Mine-Ban Convention (Managua, September 2001). Representatives of several other organizations and embassies in Peru also attended the events. In addition, the Centre supported Peru in its compliance with the 1997 Mine-Ban Convention, more specifically article 4 on the destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines.

24. The Director of the Centre served as Executive Secretary of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Mine-Ban Convention, held at Managua from 18 to 21 September 2001.

## C. Conventional weapons

25. On 23 August 2001, as part of the Inca Space Workshop Series, the Centre organized a workshop entitled "Consultations with Military Attachés of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Disarmament Proposal by Dr. Alejandro Toledo, President of Peru", which was attended by military and political officials accredited in Peru. The workshop addressed issues related to national disarmament initiatives, South American measures for those initiatives, the role of the United Nations and possible short-term and long-term measures. Participants expressed appreciation for the organization of the workshop and called for the continuation of such events, albeit with a larger scope and a greater number of participants.

26. The Centre also provided its good offices to facilitate an informal discussion between Peru and Chile on 6 September 2001 on various arms control and disarmament issues. The Centre, serving as a platform for countries in the region to expand their discussions on security issues, will continue to provide such assistance, upon request.

27. On 14 November 2001, the Centre organized, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Peru, the fifth in its Inca Space Workshop Series, entitled "The Convention of 1980 on Certain Conventional Weapons: Next Review". The objective of the series is to promote discussion and awareness of various subjects relating to peace, disarmament and development in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Ambassadors from countries in the region participated in the event, together with several military officers and members of civil society. The workshop made it possible for the Centre to act as a platform and a catalyst for the debate on issues related to regional security and to foster greater understanding between different sectors of society.

## D. Nuclear weapons

28. During the period under review, the Centre officially concluded the project entitled "Parliamentary Information Panel", the aim of which was to promote the signature and ratification of treaties. The project, undertaken in cooperation with the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), was part of a larger programme entitled "Agreements and Norms" addressing issues related to weapons of mass destruction. Future related activities will also cover issues related to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and agreements related to other weapons of mass destruction.

29. The Centre provided support to the Regional Seminar on the Protocol Additional to Nuclear Safeguards Agreements, hosted from 4 to 7 December 2001 by IAEA and the Government of Peru, with assistance from the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL). The seminar provided an opportunity to promote the Protocol Additional to Nuclear Safeguards Agreements at the regional level. It also provided a forum for discussions between OPANAL and the

Centre, which resulted in the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two parties to implement OPANAL General Conference resolution CG/Res. 418 (para. 4.1), calling upon its Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Centre.

30. On 14 March 2002, the Centre organized at United Nations Headquarters in New York a regional seminar on "Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues: Towards the 2005 NPT Review Conference" for members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. The seminar contributed to fostering a debate on issues expected to figure prominently on the agenda of the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

### E. Chemical weapons

31. The Centre participated in a regional seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention held in St. Ann, Jamaica, from 25 to 28 November 2001, organized by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The objective of the seminar was to promote the ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention to raise awareness of its benefits and obligations. Ten countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region were represented, as well as Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Participants also included representatives of the Caribbean Community and the United Nations. Several countries that had not yet ratified the Convention noted that the seminar was of great value in gaining a better understanding of the functioning of the Convention and helped to lead them a step closer to ratification.

### F. Information and public events

32. The Centre has initiated the two publication series, in English, French and Spanish: *Policy Brief* and *Latin America and Caribbean Regional Perspectives*. So far, four issues of *Policy Brief* have been published, focusing on activities of the Centre in the nuclear and firearms field. Issues of these publications planned for the second half of 2002 will also cover anti-personnel landmines, import/export of conventional weapons and military expenditures, as well as confidence- and security-building measures.

33. In May 2002, the Centre initiated the planning and production of posters, brochures, CD-ROMs and audio-visual material to publicize the various projects under development. Information on each project will be disseminated both in hard copy and electronically via the Internet. The first of these materials was expected to be available in July 2002.

34. Annex II to the present report contains an outline of the planned activities of the Centre for which funding is invited from interested donor countries and organizations.

## IV. Finance and staffing

35. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make for its support.

36. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions in the amount of US$ 633,872 were received. In addition, a number of Governments and institutions contributed to the work of the Centre by sharing or absorbing the costs of joint events, personnel and/or material resources. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Belgium, Colombia, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama and Sweden as well as to the European Union for their generous support, and to the Government of Peru for its substantial contribution to and generous support of the Centre.

37. The Director of the Centre continued to undertake an intensive fund-raising campaign in the period under review. The purpose of this effort was threefold: to report on the utilization of funds and past activities, to learn more about the interest of donor countries in the region, and to seek new contributions. Over 50 countries, institutes and foundations were approached for financial assistance. In total, besides visits to most embassies in Lima, close to 30 Foreign Ministries were contacted in the course of the year.

38. At present, the Centre operates with some administrative support from the UNDP office in Lima. Besides the Director, the Centre includes one Associate Expert from Belgium and two local staff members. However, adequate funding for sustained administrative and operational costs has yet to be found.

39. Contributions to the Centre have increased considerably when compared with the previous reporting period, mostly due to continued intensive fund-raising efforts. In spite of this increase, the financial situation for core funding of the Centre remains precarious, since only the host Government has pledged continuous funding for the Centre. The Secretary-General, therefore, strongly supports and reiterates the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/25 E to Member States, in particular the States of the Latin American and Caribbean region, as well as to international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and to foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to provide the adequate core funding it needs for operational costs and to enable it to strengthen and implement its programme of activities.

## V. Conclusions and observations

**40. The Centre has continued to act as a facilitator for the implementation of regional initiatives in the period under review. The Centre has further stimulated regional security debates, provided members of parliaments with more in-depth information on firearms matters, as well as promoted the dissemination of information on security issues among diplomats, the military, NGOs and civil society. The Centre has also intensified its contribution to the coordination of United Nations efforts towards peace and security in the region and, as a means of avoiding duplication of efforts, has continued to explore the possibility of signing Memoranda of Understanding with subregional and regional organizations, as well as NGOs.**

**41. The Centre initiated a new level of activity in the firearms area, notably by preparing training courses for the law enforcement community, weapons and ammunition destruction and the improvement of firearms and ammunition storage facilities. It has continued to enhance the role of the Organization as a regional catalyst for activities on peace and disarmament, and has acted as a politically neutral platform for debates on security and development issues. It has continued to demonstrate, through an ever expanding programme of activities, its own capacity as a focal point for peace, disarmament and development issues for Governments, non-governmental and regional organizations, and the diverse sectors of civil society in the region.**

**42. The Secretary-General counts on the continued and increasing support and cooperation of Member States and organizations to ensure the effective functioning of the Centre.**

# Annex I

## Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean covering the biennium 2000-2001

| | *United States dollars* |
|---|---|
| I. Fund balance, 31 December 1999 | 132 678 |
| II. Income, 1 January 2000-31 December 2001 | |
| Voluntary contributions[a] | 343 302 |
| Interest income | 15 468 |
| Miscellaneous income | 454 |
| **Subtotal** | **359 224** |
| III. Expenditures | |
| 1 January 2000-31 December 2001 | 354 595 |
| Prior period adjustments | - |
| **Subtotal** | **354 595** |
| IV. Fund balance, 31 December 2001 | 137 307 |

Note: Information is based on the financial statement for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001. During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2002, additional contributions totalling $455,400 were received from Belgium ($10,667), the European Commission ($276,748), Panama ($1,000), Peru ($30,000) and Sweden/SWEFOR ($136,985).

[a] 2000: Austria ($10,000), Chile ($10,000), Mexico ($2,500), Netherlands ($19,785), Panama ($3,000), Peru ($30,000), Sweden ($20,000) and Switzerland ($28,565).
2001: Austria ($10,000), Colombia ($1,000), Netherlands ($146,317), Norway ($21,110), Panama ($1,000), Peru ($30,000), Sweden ($10,000) and Switzerland ($25).

# Annex II

## Planned activities of the Centre for which funding is sought

### Project I

*Title of project*

Regional workshop to Follow up on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted at the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

*Purpose*

To facilitate States of the Latin America and Caribbean region jointly assessing the status of implementation of the Programme of Action in the region; to identify new coordination and cooperation opportunities, as well as to propose solutions to problems that might hamper the work undertaken either individually or jointly.

*Location*

University for Peace, San José

*Duration*

3 days

*Number of participants*

33 countries of the region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela

| *Cost estimates* | *$US* |
|---|---|
| Travel of participants (33) | 67 000 |
| Travel of experts (12) | 25 000 |
| Travel of staff (3) | 7 000 |
| Interpretation (English, Spanish and French) | 6 900 |
| Conference documentation | 2 600 |
| Total | 108 500 |

### Project II

*Title of project*

Latin America and Caribbean Conference to Promote the Relationship between Disarmament and Development

*Purpose*

To provide a forum for promoting, at the regional level, the principles and decisions adopted at the 1987 International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development; to assess the different activities organized in the region on the matter and provide information that could enhance the work on disarmament and development; and to assess new approaches to address the relationship between disarmament and development and adapt them to the current reality of post-cold-war relations and globalization

*Location*

Port-au-Prince

*Duration*

3 days

*Number of participants*

33 countries of the region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela

| *Cost estimates* | *$US* |
|---|---|
| Travel of participants (33) | 71 700 |
| Travel of experts (12) | 27 000 |
| Travel of staff (3) | 7 600 |
| Interpretation (English, Spanish and French) | 6 900 |
| Conference documentation | 2 600 |
| Total | 115 800 |

**Project III**

*Title of project*

Seminar on the Strengthening of Latin America and Caribbean Security and the Improvement of Coordination and Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS)

*Purpose*

To assess areas of coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and OAS on all issues that could strengthen regional security, particularly as OAS reviews different aspects of regional security and redefines the concept and methodology of hemispheric security for the next 10 to 15 years; to provide an opportunity to mutually reinforce efforts, projects, programmes and measures to deal with illicit trafficking in drugs and firearms, terrorism, landmine issues and

related issues; and to identify synergies between the work of the two organizations with a view to promoting greater coordination and cooperation between them on matters related to peace and disarmament

*Location*

University for Peace, San José

*Duration*

3 days

*Number of participants*

33 countries of the region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela

| *Cost estimates* | *$US* |
|---|---|
| Travel of participants (33) | 67 000 |
| Travel of experts (12) | 25 000 |
| Travel of staff (3) | 7 000 |
| Interpretation (English, Spanish and French) | 6 900 |
| Conference documentation | 2 600 |
| Total | 108 500 |

**Project IV**

*Title of project*

Regional Workshop to Follow up on the Implementation of the Mine-Ban Convention

*Purpose*

To facilitate States of Latin America and the Caribbean jointly assessing the status of implementation of the Mine-Ban Convention in the region; to identify new coordination and cooperation opportunities; and to propose solutions to any problems that might hamper the work undertaken either individually or jointly

*Location*

Tegucigalpa

*Duration*

3 days

*Number of participants*

33 countries of the region: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela

| *Cost estimates* | *$US* |
|---|---|
| Travel of participants (33) | 77 700 |
| Travel of experts (12) | 29 100 |
| Travel of staff (3) | 8 100 |
| Interpretation (English, Spanish and French) | 6 900 |
| Conference documentation | 2 600 |
| Total | 124 400 |

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**Fifty-seventh session**
Item 67 (n) of the preliminary list*
**General disarmament**

# Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/24 I of 29 November 2001, entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels", the General Assembly decided to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels and requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report to it at its fifty-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, on 5 February 2002, sent a note verbale to all Member States requesting their views on the subject. To date, replies have been received from Bulgaria, El Salvador, Lebanon, Poland and Qatar. Any further replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Member States

## Bulgaria

[Original: English]
[1 May 2002]

1. The Bulgarian policy on conventional arms control plays an important role in the overall security policy of the country.

2. In recent years, the countries of South-Eastern Europe have achieved unprecedented progress in setting up a new, positive climate of cooperation, based on common values and interests. These positive tendencies became possible only after the collapse of the system of confrontation of blocs and the strengthening of confidence among the countries through increased transparency and predictability and new forms of regional cooperation. Facing new requirements to cooperate and operate effectively and to better prepare for the challenges to security, the countries of South-Eastern Europe have established new patterns of partnership fostering the process of Euro-Atlantic integration. The adoption of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and of the updated Vienna Document of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-building Measures of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) played a crucial role in this respect.

3. Bulgaria has pursued a systematic regional policy of strengthening security and good-neighbourliness in South-Eastern Europe. A stable network for high-level consultations has been created to serve as a practical measure for strengthening regional confidence and security. A good example of this is the initiative for meetings of the Ministers of Defence and of Foreign Affairs, the Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs of the General Staffs, etc. There are valuable and tangible results from the South-eastern Europe Defence Ministerial process, in particular the Multinational Peace Force in South-eastern Europe, which currently has its headquarters in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

4. The Republic of Bulgaria has participated in the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures and arms control, provided for in the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Peace Agreement), which ended successfully in July 2001 with the adoption of a Concluding Document under article V of annex 1-B to the Dayton Peace Agreement. The goal of the negotiations was to further develop the objectives of the Agreement for Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria renders methodological support to the countries parties to the Agreement in carrying out their duties during evaluation visits and inspections. Furthermore, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria participates in this process through its representatives in the evaluation visits and inspections and in the accompanying groups as well.

5. The Concluding Document includes a number of measures that are voluntary in nature. The document itself is politically binding and came into effect on 1 January 2002. Among the measures adopted are: exchange of defence-related information; expansion of military contacts and cooperation; bringing the levels of military activity below those provided for in the 1999 Vienna Document; performance of additional inspections and evaluation visits; rendering financial, technical and other support in the process of demining and destruction of landmine stockpiles; obligation to join the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

6. Another example of regional security cooperation is the Agreement on the Establishment of the Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group (BLACKSEAFOR).

7. Seeking to cope with new dynamics in the fundamentally changed strategic environment and in order to enhance the processes of establishing regional security and collaboration, the South-east Europe Common Assessment Paper on Regional Security Challenges and Opportunities (SEECAP) was developed. The document sets out the perceptions and future plans for shaping the environment in the region.

8. In the context of the recent crisis in the Western Balkans, the problem of the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons has emerged on the regional security agenda as a serious one.

9. Guided by the principle of regional ownership of the Stability Pact and in line with Euro-Atlantic principles and values, Bulgaria has been and will continue to be a promoter of regional cooperation in this field in South-Eastern Europe and is ready to support the efforts of the international community aimed at curbing the uncontrolled proliferation and excessive accumulation of small arms and light weapons in areas of conflict of the Western Balkans.

10. In December 1999, under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe and with the valuable support of the Government of the United States of America, Bulgaria initiated and hosted a Regional Conference on Export Control in which 12 countries from South-Eastern and Central Europe participated. The Conference adopted two documents of particular importance, a Joint Declaration on Responsible Arms Transfers and a Statement on Harmonization of End-Use/End-User Certificates. Bulgaria continues to consider these two widely accepted and recognized documents, in enhancing national export control systems and upgrading them to European standards, to be a valuable and credible contribution to regional stability. This concrete step, though not implemented to its fullest potential, has contributed to the strengthening of the process of regional cooperation in the areas of the prevention of illicit arms trafficking and export control of arms and dual-use goods and technologies. These documents are open for accession by all interested States which have not yet done so.

11. The existing system of bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements between the countries of the region successfully stimulates the processes of enhanced trust and partnership aimed at strengthening openness in the military sphere and avoiding the risks of the use of force. Bilateral agreements aimed at strengthening the process of confidence- and security-building measures have been signed between the Defence Ministries of the Republic of Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and Romania. These agreements are in the spirit of the 1999 Vienna Document and establish the minimal levels of notification and observation of military activity in areas adjacent to their common borders with each State. An obligation to accept an additional number of visits for assessment of the information exchanged pursuant to the 1999 Vienna Document is provided for in the agreements.

12. In March 1999, the Governments of Bulgaria and Turkey signed a bilateral Agreement on the non-use of anti-personnel mines and their removal from and destruction in the areas adjacent to their common borders. On 30 January 2002, Bulgaria and Turkey exchanged documents of ratification of this bilateral Agreement. The Agreement comes into force on 1 May 2002. It provides that the destruction of the mines in the areas adjacent to the common borders shall be completed within a period of six years. Ninety days after the entry into force of the Agreement, initial information on the location of the anti-personnel mines and their number will be exchanged. This information as well as the process of the removal and destruction of the anti-personnel mines will be monitored through annual surveillance visits.

13. A Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) was established with headquarters in Zagreb as a quick-start project under Working Table III (Security issues) of the Stability Pact for South-eastern Europe. Working Table III is aimed at creating a climate of confidence and security throughout South-Eastern Europe by enhancing transparency, openness and predictability in the field of military security, as well as cooperation and a broad security dialogue among the participating States.

14. Bulgaria supported the creation of the Centre and committed itself to provide lecturers and experts for the education and training of Centre personnel and inspectors from the States of the region.

15. Delegations from all Black Sea countries took part in negotiations on confidence- and security-

building measures in the naval field in the Black Sea area. The negotiations were successfully concluded on 1 November 2001 with the adoption of a draft Document on confidence- and security-building measures in the naval field in the Black Sea area. The Document was approved by a decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria on 11 April 2002. The participating States adopted the Document by joint declaration in Kiev on 25 April 2002. The Document will be implemented as of 1 January 2003. The agreement provides for measures for: cooperation in the naval field; military contacts and visits to naval bases; exchange of naval information; and annual naval exercises.

## El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[29 April 2002]

Pursuant to this resolution, El Salvador ratified the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions through Legislative Decree No. 694, of 19 December 2001, published in *Diario Oficial* No. 14 of 22 January 2002, as a result of which its recommendations are applicable throughout the national territory.

## Lebanon

[Original: English]
[24 April 2002]

Lebanon is not a manufacturer of light or small weapons and hence does not periodically publish information on their production, export, import or control. Lebanon supports all international instruments addressing this issue, whether to combat it or eradicate it. Further, Lebanon reaffirms its commitment to respect international standards and systems used in improving the field of information and telecommunications, increasing international information security systems and preventing their misuse in any way. Finally, Lebanon does not possess any kind of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons that violate environmental norms and is committed to the conservation of the environment in accordance with international standards.

## Poland

[Original: English]
[9 May 2002]

1. Poland is a party to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and the Treaty on Open Skies and is a participating State in other conventional arms control agreements concluded within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the Vienna Document 1999. All of those agreements form an all-European arms control regime based on the principles of cooperation, openness, transparency, verification, limitations and constraints. Such a regime incorporates also specific regional arms control arrangements on additional confidence- and security-building measures. Together, they constitute an essential element of cooperative European security and will continue to remain an important tool for strengthening security as long as military and security risks exist, although they may be different in nature and scope from those of the past.

2. Poland is deeply committed to the United Nations idea of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest level of armaments. An excellent example in this respect, which could be used in considering such efforts, is the history of the negotiation and the content of the CFE Treaty, as well as its implementation. The Treaty brought about the destruction of more than 59,000 pieces of military equipment and, through its verification and information exchange regimes, created a climate of transparency and predictability in the military field. The force reductions mandated by the CFE Treaty significantly enhanced stability by eliminating the capability for surprise attack and large-scale offensive action. The CFE Treaty proved to be also not only a routine agreement on arms control and armament reductions, but in principle, an instrument of stability and the promotion of the rule of law in the military sphere in Europe.

3. The CFE Treaty has been complemented by the confidence- and security-building measures stipulated in the Vienna Document 1992, further developed in the Vienna Document 1994 and 1999. Since the beginning of the year 2002, the conventional arms control regime has been strengthened by the entry into force of the Treaty on Open Skies.

4. Poland, with its positive experience of the results of the implementation of the European conventional arms control regime, strongly encourages other States beyond Europe to begin negotiations on these kinds of agreements. For our part, we are ready to share with interested States our experiences gained during the negotiation and implementation of these conventional arms control agreements.

## Qatar

[Original: English]
[29 April 2002]

The State of Qatar proposes the convening of a workshop for Member States through the Department of Disarmament Affairs aiming at limiting small arms and light weapons, or that the matter be included in the agenda of the proposed meeting which was decided to be held every two years, starting in 2003.

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Joint Inspection Unit

# Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the involvement of civil society organizations other than non-governmental organizations and the private sector in technical cooperation activities: experiences and prospects of the United Nations system

## Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Involvement of civil society organizations other than NGOs and the private sector in technical cooperation activities: experiences and prospects of the United Nations system" (JIU/REP/2002/1).

* A/57/50/Rev.1.

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JIU/REP/2002/1
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# INVOLVEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN NGOS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: EXPERIENCES AND PROSPECTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

***Prepared by***

***Francesco Mezzalama***

Joint Inspection Unit

**United Nations, Geneva**
**February 2002**

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## ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| **ACC** | Administrative Committee on Coordination (now CEB) |
| **CCA** | Common Country Assessment |
| **CEB** | Chief Executives Board for Coordination (formerly ACC) |
| **CSO** | Civil Society Organization |
| **DESA** | Department of Economic and Social Affairs |
| **ECA** | Economic Commission for Africa |
| **ECLAC** | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| **FAO** | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| **HIV/AIDS** | Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome |
| **ILO** | International Labour Organization |
| **IMO** | International Maritime Organization |
| **JIU** | Joint Inspection Unit |
| **MAP** | Multi-Country AIDS Programme for Africa (World Bank) |
| **MOU** | Memorandum of Understanding |
| **NGO** | Non-Governmental Organization |
| **SME** | Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise |
| **UNAIDS** | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| **UNCTAD** | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| **UNDAF** | United Nations Development Assistance Framework |
| **UNGLS** | United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service |
| **UNDP** | United Nations Development Programme |
| **UNEP** | United Nations Environment Programme |
| **UNESCO** | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| **UNFPA** | United Nations Population Fund |
| **UNHCR** | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| **UNICEF** | United Nations Children's Fund |
| **UNIDO** | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| **UNOPS** | United Nations Office for Project Services |
| **WFP** | World Food Programme |
| **WHO** | World Health Organization |
| **WIPO** | World Intellectual Property Organization |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: OBJECTIVE, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**OBJECTIVE:**
**To examine the profile of Civil Society and analyse how the increased involvement and cooperation of its organizations in economic and social development programmes of selected United Nations entities can be better structured and expanded.**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the past several years, due to the increasing role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system, Member States have repeatedly called for the development of a policy framework and an appropriate mechanism at the regional and national level for collaborating with CSOs, in order to enhance their involvement and participation. Member States also came out strongly and advocated through Agenda 21 the need for new forms of participation in support of a common effort for sustainable development. In addition, other developments such as the globalization of trade, the progress of democratization and good governance, the advance of communication technologies, the request for a clear recognition of economic and social rights and entitlements, the eradication of poverty, just to mention a few topical issues, have opened the way to a more active presence of Civil Society.

The growing awareness of Member States of these new realities, compounded by the recognition of the United Nations system organizations, has brought to light the important contribution being made by CSOs in an effort by the system to build up the capacity of developing countries. This scenario underlines the emergence of Civil Society as a powerful actor on the national and international scene and highlights the need to face this factor with different approaches, proposals and solutions, based on a meaningful tripartite cooperation of governments, United Nations system organizations and CSOs.

The report focuses on this new evolution of partnership, the opportunities it offers for a forward-looking approach, the obstacles involved in the process and how to handle them. After the introduction to the report, chapter I attempts to define the notion of Civil Society and CSOs vis-à-vis the other non-State actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, by demonstrating the specificity and capabilities of CSOs. Apart from the private sector, until recently there has been a tendency to identify CSOs with NGOs while distinct typologies are emerging within the former which deserve separate definition and consideration, hence an approach of their own. The report endeavours to clarify the existing haze between the two organizations.

In chapter II, the report concentrates on the relationship of CSOs with the United Nations system organizations at the operational level. It examines the existing ways and means for cooperation which need to be revisited and perfected in order to recognize that CSOs are not only the end beneficiaries of social and economic projects, but have become increasingly identified as partners and players along the process of design, implementation and evaluation of technical cooperation programmes as well as in implementing rehabilitation projects in post-conflict situations. If this assessment is correct–and consensus was expressed to the Inspector in his round of contacts–the United Nations needs to be better equipped conceptually and operationally, and to develop its outreach strategies to involve CSOs. It is also particularly important that the relevant legislative organs provide policy guidance and that secretariats establish directives and a flexible ad hoc framework in order to give the process an appropriate momentum.

Chapter III explores the role of CSOs in capacity-building, taking into account the tripartite nature of the cooperation (governments/United Nations system organizations/CSOs) by clarifying the role to be assumed by each party in order to promote and strengthen collaboration and further enhance the effectiveness of technical cooperation. Against this background, the following conclusions and recommendations are introduced.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Until recently, Civil Society has been considered predominantly as the beneficiary of development and technical assistance programmes and projects. A new situation has evolved, and Civil Society is recognized now in a new role as an active partner in the area of technical cooperation. This shift implies that sporadic involvement of CSOs is no longer sufficient, and the top-down approach to development needs to change.

**RECOMMENDATION 1**

**CSOs should be involved in technical cooperation activities during all stages of programme planning, which includes design, sustainability, implementation/execution, monitoring and evaluation as well as follow-up (para. 55).**

B. Because of the sheer number and the diversity of non-State actors, and their increased involvement in the activities of the United Nations for advocacy and technical cooperation, it is necessary for the United Nations system to have a framework to select and operate with CSOs. In fact, there is sometimes little evidence to assess claims of a CSO to represent a particular constituency other than that asserted by its leaders. It may furthermore happen that some self-proclaimed groups are "front" or "screen organizations" for sectoral interests. The Inspector is of the opinion that, although proposing standard guidelines and establishing strict criteria for selecting CSOs as partners and counterparts might not be seen as a priority or a requirement for some organizations, it is nevertheless a reality that the evolution of such cooperation has a considerable potential to increase in the very near future. This perspective requires that the United Nations be adequately equipped to respond to the challenge. Designating focal points is useful for obtaining centralized information instead of fragmented input. This is also true for non-State actors and government institutions working with the United Nations system. For this purpose it is recommended that:

**RECOMMENDATION 2**

**(*a*) A standard framework, which is sufficiently flexible, could be usefully established to be adapted to the different situations and needs of United Nations organizations. This should include the assessment of the legitimacy of representation of any particular CSO, as has been provided for through the guidelines and selection criteria of NGOs, but specific to the nature of CSOs (para. 44);**

**(*b*) Organizations particularly active in technical cooperation without a focal point for CSOs should consider appointing one as part of the existing structure (para. 48);**

**(*c*) In connection with meetings of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) for Coordination (formerly the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)), consultations among focal points, either directly or through the existing network of the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UNGLS) as appropriate, could be envisaged when relevant issues on sustainable development are examined (para. 49).**

C. Accountability and transparency are among the principles which Member States, reviewing and controlling bodies of the United Nations organizations require to be part of the project component. These principles should also be adhered to in cooperating with CSOs along the following lines:

**RECOMMENDATION 3**

**(*a*) Accountability and reporting procedures must be taken into account in the partnership between the United Nations system organizations and CSOs (para. 45);**

**(*b*) Even in cases where such a requirement is already pragmatically satisfied in existing agreements, contracts and Staff Rules and Regulations, a policy should be recommended by the legislative organs to develop a common set of principles to guide United Nations system engagement with CSOs (para. 45).**

D. CEB gives special attention to the development of partnerships between the United Nations system organizations and non-State actors, especially in the area of economic and social activities. CEB has an important role to play in coordinating inter-agency initiatives. It should therefore:

**RECOMMENDATION 4**

**(*a*) Recognize and institutionalize such cooperation to be reflected permanently in its agenda of work and periodically report the results to the Economic and Social Council (para. 64);**

**(*b*) Sensitize its High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) in order that, when economic and social issues are considered, the role of CSOs is taken into account (para. 64).**

E. Local CSOs are useful partners of the United Nations system in providing information. It is acknowledged that they are reliable channels of communication between the beneficiaries and the United Nations system. Furthermore, national CSOs are also one of the channels for enhancing democracy through participation and representation as well as "in providing assistance to government efforts to involve Civil Society in policy-making decisions".[1]

**RECOMMENDATION 5**

**(*a*) In order to enable national CSOs to assume further their increasing roles as partners of the system, each organization should make it part of their objective to train and empower CSOs as well as strengthen their organizational structures in terms of legal and managerial capacity, and inform the legislative organs as appropriate (para. 57);**

**(*b*) The United Nations system organizations should assist women in general, and those in the developing countries in particular, with appropriate action on training and resource mobilization to enhance their organizational and managerial skills including information technology. Member States and donors should provide financial resources intended for this purpose (para. 88).**

F. It has been proven during the last decade that CSOs play a prominent role in the capacity-building of their nation. They are the representatives of their members and know the needs and aspirations of their communities. The United Nations system is in fact using CSOs increasingly as implementing partners in technical cooperation. This development can be enhanced as follows:

**RECOMMENDATION 6**

**(*a*) The prevailing informal and pragmatic cooperation with CSOs should be better structured through the definition of policy guidelines. This development will give further input to ongoing initiatives by the secretariats and should be translated into policy actions by legislative organs (para. 5);**

**(*b*) The financial autonomy of CSOs and their entities, including access to credit, should be encouraged by donors and recipient countries to reduce their dependence on sporadic donations and contributions which undermine their sustainability and potential effectiveness of action (para. 17).**

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[1] A/56/326, para. 220.

G. The United Nations system needs to ensure that its staff at the country level engaged in technical cooperation activities are equipped to respond to the evolving changes of dealing with CSOs. For this purpose it is recommended that:

**RECOMMENDATION 7**

**(*a*) Specific staff training is required in development programmes to be approved and implemented at the national level involving CSOs. The responsibility of training the trainers could also be envisaged (para. 83);**

**(*b*) For improvements in United Nations staff training, the United Nations System Staff College in Turin could be one appropriate structure (paras. 52 and 83)**

H. Coordinating programme activities is not an easy task and requires clear commitments. The current common country assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) mechanism does not seem to respond fully to the newly assigned role of CSOs. Substantial room is left for improvement. More in-depth evaluations of the actual engagement of CSOs in existing United Nations mechanisms should be encouraged in order to give more weight to the Organization's commitment vis-à-vis CSOs. In order to respond to the need for improving and enhancing coordination within the United Nations system, the following step is recommended (paras. 76-78):

**RECOMMENDATION 8**

**The existing mechanism at the country level has to be revised and amplified, shifting from limited and sporadic consultations to involvement of CSOs during the planning and execution process of technical cooperation activities in synergy with governments (para. 76).**

I. Information sharing, communication and networking are essential for the United Nations organizations active in technical cooperation at the global, regional and country levels. The process should consider, whenever possible, ways and means to include CSOs. Web sites, in addition to the printed word and radio, appear to be appropriate tools for disseminating information and creating links, in particular with CSOs (para. 53).

**RECOMMENDATION 9**

**(*a*) Those United Nations organizations dealing with economic and social development should be encouraged to include in their web sites selected information on CSOs engaged in technical cooperation activities for the benefit of CSOs in general, and in particular, for those which do not have a web site. For CSOs already equipped with a web site, it would be useful for United Nations system organization web sites to have these CSO hyperlinks imbedded, thereby making it possible to connect readers to the web sites of relevant CSOs;**

**(*b*) Major conferences, meetings, seminars/workshops organized by the United Nations system and of special interest to CSOs should be part of the appropriate printed word, radio and web site information.**

## INTRODUCTION

1. The input for the present report comes from several sources. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) suggested the item in view of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) Work Programme 2001, but the situation seemed in any event timely for a review of the problem, as is evidenced throughout the document.

2. This exercise responds furthermore to the internal logic and continuity of the Unit's endeavours to explore the world of Civil Society. It is worth recalling that JIU recently produced two reports on NGOs[2] and one on the private sector.[3] Out of those three reports, CSOs are seen to emerge as a phenomenon. Because of their specificity, they deserve separate consideration. As a matter of fact, a more explicit diversification within Civil Society itself has suggested a focused approach to a component that has acquired a visibility and a prominence of its own, distinct from NGOs though covered by a single umbrella under which the private sector can, in principle, also be accommodated. With the present report, the Unit is therefore expanding its exploration on the cooperation between the United Nations system and non-State actors, and finalizing a triptych about one of the most topical and timely subjects now under scrutiny by Member States and the Organization.

3. The added value of preparing the current report is that full involvement of CSOs in technical cooperation programmes is advantageous, not only for the recipients, but also for governments in the sense that the foundations and structures of the State, especially in developing countries, are fortified politically, economically and socially.

4. A further element of support came from the legislative authority. At least three General Assembly resolutions[4] refer explicitly to the need for strengthening the capacity of Civil Society and NGOs involved in development activities. Also, the well-known Global Compact[5] is active in mobilizing the potential of Civil Society, not to mention the Millennium Declaration and its appeal to "give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and Civil Society in general to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes".[6] Within the same context, it is worth mentioning General Assembly resolution A/56/L.33, dealing with Global Partnership. Incidentally, it is interesting to note that the three components of Civil Society in recent documents and the terminology used in them are listed separately, while pertaining to the same context. The choice inspiring the present report thus appears further justified, even if it is clear that no contrary position should exist amongst non-State actors operating inside Civil Society, but rather that coordination, aimed at fostering cooperation in development policies, should be in place.

5. As transpires from the title, the subject of this review is focused on technical cooperation activities in which CSOs and their entities are involved. This, however, does not preclude engaging CSOs in key policy processes that lie outside formal programme and project frameworks and having agencies of the United Nations system creating and brokering space for CSOs to participate and make their voices heard. In the process, the report will attempt to clarify the notion of CSOs and their relevance to the engagement of the United Nations system in economic and social programmes. It will try to spell out the difference between the two main non-State actors in development–NGOs and CSOs whose notion goes beyond the traditional concept of NGOs, in spite of often having

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[2] *Working with NGOs: Operational activities for development of the United Nations system with Non-governmental Organizations and governments at the grassroots and national levels* (JIU/REP/93/1) (United Nations document A/49/122) and *Review of financial resources allocated by the United Nations system to activities by Non-Governmental Organizations* (JIU/REP/96/4) (United Nations document A/51/655).

[3] *Private sector involvement and cooperation with the United Nations system* (JIU/REP/99/6) (United Nations document A/54/700).

[4] A/RES/46/151, A/RES/50/120 and A/RES/53/192.

[5] Statement by the Secretary-General proposing the Global Compact on Human Rights, Labour and Environment in his address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on 31 January 1999 (Press Release SG/SM/6881/Rev.1 of 1 February 1999).

[6] A/RES/55/2, p. 9, para. 30.

common denominators. The comparative advantages as well as obstacles in working with CSOs will be reviewed and areas of present cooperation and future potential will be highlighted. In this aspect, the existing United Nations mechanisms for cooperation, which include guidelines, criteria for selection and accountability procedures, will be analysed to ensure that the system is adequately equipped to respond to the increasing evolution and influence of CSOs. The report will also look at the role and contribution of CEB in strengthening and institutionalizing cooperation at the Headquarters and country levels. The status of focal points for CSOs and the possibility of networking for exchanging information will also be looked at. In addition, the report will analyse how the United Nations system utilizes the services of CSOs, in particular national CSOs, at the country level to enhance its long-standing objectives of capacity-building within the framework of technical cooperation. Where there is a lack of policy guidance to fortify such cooperation and partnership, it will make suggestions to legislative organs and/or secretariats as necessary to examine the possibility of improving such policy issues **(recommendation 6(a)).**

6. The participation of governments in this process is being allocated appropriate importance in accordance with the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions. It is clear that central or local authorities are the main entrance through which the initiatives of the United Nations system and donors in the field of technical cooperation have to be channelled. They are normally the interlocutors even when CSO expectations and entitlements are the object of critical consideration. An ongoing dialogue between all the interested parties is essential and the United Nations–in the Inspector's opinion–is in a privileged position to act as a driving force and, when necessary, as an honest broker and facilitator. It can also help bridge occasional gaps and establish mutual trust as recommended in the report, in accordance with a concurrence of opinions that were expressed to the Inspector.

7. Here are a few observations on the methodology which was followed in the preparation of this report. Although the examination was system-wide, attention was mainly focused on those agencies and programmes having extensive projects of technical cooperation. Gathering of information was carried out by means of on-the-spot visits and missions to some components of the United Nations system and by the distribution of a detailed questionnaire in order to involve a wide range of interlocutors and to take advantage of broadly based points of view from relevant sources.

8. The Inspector wishes to extend his appreciation to all those who assisted him and is grateful for the valuable cooperation which he received in the accomplishment of his missions.

# I. DEFINITIONS: THE NATURE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE CONCEPT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

## A. CSOs relevant to the role of the United Nations in technical cooperation

9. The emergence–or, in several parts of the world, the re-emergence–of Civil Society is linked to two interlocking processes: the quest for more democratic, transparent, accountable and enabling governance and the increasing preponderance of market-based approaches to national and global economic management. These have resulted in redefining the role of the State and giving new and broader responsibilities to market and Civil Society actors in the pursuit of growth and welfare. "In this overall context, a vibrant Civil Society is critical to processes of democratization and empowerment."[7]

10. It is probably both the diversity and the increasing number of CSOs, both nationally and internationally, involved in economic and social development, that have discouraged the United Nations system from forming a clear definition. The organization does not yet have a clearly defined concept of CSOs which would go beyond their long-standing traditional relationship with NGOs. Most organizations do have definitions for their own use and purpose, and most agree that CSOs are separate from the State, from political parties, from quasi-governmental agencies and from profit-making entities. For this reason, two organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), do not consider the private sector as strictly as part of CSOs. It may happen, however, that CSOs carry out functions which are normally the responsibility of the public sector or, in some cases, are organized to pursue goals which do not exclude profit-making.

11. The difficulty in finding a widely accepted definition has been turned around by way of exemplifications. An incomplete list includes professional associations, cooperatives, village development communities, indigenous peoples, women and youth groups, networks for homework, religious and cultural associations, academic institutions, media and business promoters, and intellectual and research entities. The above listing proves, if need be, that CSOs and NGOs may differ also in the way they are financed through contributions from their members. It is also worth mentioning that members of CSOs are often not registered.

12. The Inspector, within the scope of this report, has attempted to clarify this situation by proposing the following definition with the recognition that more collective efforts are needed in developing practical ways of defining the nature of a CSO vis-à-vis an NGO.

***A "Civil Society" is the result of different components of populations and communities, and refers to the sphere in which citizens and social initiatives organize themselves around objectives, constituencies and thematic interests. They act collectively through their organizations known as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which include movements, entities, institutions autonomous from the State which in principle, are non-profit-making, act locally, nationally and internationally, in defence and promotion of social, economic and cultural interests and for mutual benefit. They intermediate between their constituencies/members, with the State as well as with United Nations bodies. They do this through lobbying and/or provision of services. Though belonging to the non-State actor category, they are different from the private sector and NGOs as they may not be registered, may replace the public sector, are not always structured and often their members are not officially recognized.***

13. While the role of Civil Society is looked at principally in terms of promoting ideals and activities that represent citizens' interests and promote the public good,[8] the involvement of CSOs and their entities in the activities of the United Nations system organizations is twofold:

[7] A/51/950 of 14 July 1997, para. 208.

[8] Ibid., para. 209.

First, CSOs perform an advocacy function in economic and social decisions, in environmental issues, and in the fields of good governance, democracy and human rights. More and more, their qualified representatives are invited to insure a presence, though mainly as observers, at conferences, meetings, conventions and working groups. Support, including financial assistance, is increasingly granted to facilitate CSOs from developing and least-developed countries to participate in those events;

Second, they perform an operational role, that is involvement in project design and the implementation process of technical cooperation activities. Despite lack of an institutionalized framework and insufficient legislative authority on the part of the United Nations system, CSOs are beneficiaries and partners at the same time in many social and economic programmes.

### *1. Strengths*

14. Exploration in view of the present report showed a concurrence of opinions on the strengths and therefore the advantages of working with CSOs.

15. CSOs are in a better position to reach out to the poorest and most marginalized peoples because their activities are mainly carried out in proximity to their members and clients. They can be more efficient than the public sector and more cost-effective in providing services, as they often act for targeted, well-defined sectoral projects, and even more so if the official local situation facilitates decentralization and delegation in the implementation of programmes. Greater leverage is thus afforded to the initiatives of Civil Society. CSOs are furthermore potentially useful tools for the dissemination of information about the plans and projects of the United Nations. In return, the Organization is informed about detailed aspects of needs and expectations along with the ability to adjust or introduce new technical cooperation initiatives. The complementarity between governments, the United Nations and CSOs serves the purpose of democratization and can acquire the support of local, less-favoured constituencies which are based at the popular grass-roots level. "Ensuring democracy requires good governance, which in turn depends on inclusive participation, transparency, accountability and the promotion of the rule of law. The United Nations assists Governments in strengthening their legal frameworks, policies, mechanisms and institutions for democratic governance through support to democratic governing institutions, such as parliaments, judiciaries and electoral management bodies; building human rights institutions and conflict resolution mechanisms and skills, strengthening local government and Civil Society participation in decision-making processes; strengthening public sector management, transparency and accountability; combating corruption, enhancing the role of the media; and improving electoral and parliamentary systems."[9] Therefore, CSOs not only constitute a potential partner for governments to develop their economies, but can also help understand and achieve governmental strategies. Furthermore, government ownership of a comprehensive development framework can be fully implemented only by reaching out to all the stakeholders. A concept to be retained is that satisfactory involvement of Civil Society implies the appropriate, national environment–namely, that policies, rules and conventions must be in place. United Nations agencies should therefore carefully review the comparative advantages of working with CSOs and make use of those advantages which would best serve the objectives of their technical cooperation activities.

### *2. Weaknesses*

16. The full performance of CSOs implies internal structures, accountability, and transparency vis-à-vis their promoters, supporters and donors. In reality, it happens that they are seldom organized and scarcely empowered with sufficient administrative and managerial skills. Accountability is required, not only by their patrons but also by their constituencies, and for that reason their legitimacy in representing the community on whose behalf they claim to act must be assessed and verified. It is also essential that their non-political character be safeguarded. These are sufficient reasons for improving the

[9] A/56/326, para. 218.

present selection mechanism and for the United Nations agencies and programmes to establish a flexible standard framework to make dealing with CSOs accountable and transparent **(recommendation 3)**.

17. Other impediments lie in their dependence on external and voluntary contributions, which undermine their sustainability. Even in cases of well-defined and financed programmes, there remains the problem of assuring an autonomous follow-up after the planned implementation. Several of these shortcomings could be eliminated or at least reduced by replacing sporadic consultations and by involving CSOs in all stages of a project, from initial planning to successive phases, including implementation. More intense training programmes should also be envisaged for the benefit not only of CSOs in order to improve their capacity-building, relationship and cooperation with the United Nations system, but also of the Staff of the organizations who may need to refine their knowledge and practice in dealing with CSOs **(recommendation 6(b))**.

## II. RELATIONSHIPS OF CSOs WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ORGANIZATIONS

### A. Overview of United Nations bodies cooperating with CSOs

18. The United Nations system organizations that were contacted by the Inspector clearly stated that their main interlocutors in technical cooperation activities were the governments, but also admitted that they had a long-standing working relationship with CSOs in view of a well-balanced tripartite process which involved Member States, the organizations and Civil Society entities. They recognized further that country ownership of their development strategies meant that committed governments and their people must be at the centre of their development processes. The level and type of relationships between governments, Civil Society and the business sector have changed due to new factors such as the globalization of economies, the decentralization of authority and trends in development assistance. As a result, the United Nations system's attention to the relevance of Civil Society has dramatically increased over the past number of years.

19. Areas of cooperation are specific to each organization. How some organizations cooperate with CSOs is summarized as follows:

20. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)—When DESA was created in 1998, one of its stated objectives was to improve its links to Civil Society. Since then, a concerted effort has been made to strengthen and diversify the Department's interaction with non-State partners with a potential for advancing work in economic and social development. A variety of institutional measures have been adopted to ensure the continued effectiveness of the consultative function. For example, each substantive division has designated at least one focal point with responsibility for the ongoing effectiveness of its relationships with its Civil Society partners. The central support mechanism is the Department's Non-State Actors Task Force, which provides a forum for the divisional focal points and coordinates departmental procedures for interacting with Civil Society. The Department is working with CSOs in a wide field of activities. Special attention is devoted to the environment, good governance, the empowerment of women, and the cooperation of CSOs with local authorities. Consultations are ongoing and are gathering momentum in view of the meetings of the special commissions, such as those on sustainable development and women. In these cases, the contributions from CSO representatives whose participation is supported are processed and passed on as input for the decision-making process. Listening to CSOs and exchanging messages are the policy. DESA action towards governments and CSOs is aimed at improving a tripartite cooperation in economic and social projects, in the elaboration of policies, in supporting initiatives that can help progress in macro and microeconomies of developing countries. One of the medium-term objectives of the section dealing with CSOs is to encourage, facilitate and enhance the participation of relevant elements of Civil Society in the activities of the United Nations, particularly in the economic and social sectors. Academia is also consulted as appropriate. DESA cooperates closely with research institutes and other academic CSOs throughout the world. For example, Project LINK is an international consortium that involves co-operation between DESA and some 80 academic and economic research institutions around the world. A relevant aspect of the Department's action is the possibility of supporting peripheral CSOs, which complement the local authority in areas that are distant and isolated. Furthermore, CSOs became full partners in efforts of policy-making in accordance with their specialization and information on topics of interest to the Economic and Social Council, participating in a variety of initiatives such as the Information and Communications Technology Task Force and many panels and round-table discussions.

21. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)—In 2000, UNCTAD established a Civil Society Outreach Unit with the following core functions: developing and implementing policies for public outreach; developing cooperation with NGOs, academia and parliamentarians; and promoting the integration of the gender perspective in the work of the organization. At the third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in

Brussels (May 2001) the final declaration stated that development was a shared responsibility through genuine partnership including Civil Society and the private sector.[10] That is precisely a policy pursued by UNCTAD based on an already existing approach which involves CSOs as actors. Initiatives are taken according to specialization, following guidelines for representation, accountability and selection. UNCTAD recognizes that there is a greater need to respond to the expectations of Civil Society. Within this context, the holding of a global dialogue with Civil Society is considered, prior to and in preparation of the next UNCTAD Conference (XI; to be held in 2004). This dialogue would bring together Civil Society actors representing NGOs, parliamentarians, the private sector, trade unions, academics and faith-based development-oriented organizations.

22. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)–UNEP has had close links with CSOs since its inception. It categorizes "Civil Society" to include business and industry, civic and labour associations, NGOs and non-governmental research institutions. However, the organization's engagement with CSOs is entering a new phase as a result of the UNEP Governing Council's Decision on the Role of Civil Society,[11] whereby it requested the Executive Director to further the consultative process, including at the regional level, with governments, Civil Society, the private sector and other major groups on ways and means to enhance the active engagement and participation of Civil Society in the work of UNEP. It also requested UNEP to submit, before the end of 2001, a report on the outcome of these consultations, along with a draft strategy. The UNEP Governing Council alone can provide the guidelines for a new strategy for strengthening Civil Society's engagement in the work of UNEP.

23. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—UNDP has, since the early nineties, recognized the importance of collaboration with CSOs not only as beneficiaries of technical cooperation, but as partners in the design and implementation of policies and programmes. The shift is from a vertical to a horizontal approach. It is important to negotiate what does and does not fit as an agenda for partnership and why. The CSO Advisory Committee to the Administrator is an important forum at headquarters for doing so. UNDP has a focal point for dealing with CSOs and is convinced that greater leverage must be given to them and their legitimate aspirations. Hence the need to move from sporadic consultations to a deeper, more permanent collaboration. The UNDP approach encourages the diversification of operational and policy initiatives. Poverty eradication, capacity-building, reaching out to the less privileged social levels, recognition of CSO entitlements, developing advocacy skills, training CSOs as well as the United Nations staff who deal with them, are all meaningful examples. UNDP is presently finalizing a policy note on CSO engagement.

24. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)—As for the activities of UNFPA, the main beneficiaries are adult men and women, users of reproductive health services and commodities in developing countries. These activities have expanded access to affordable products and services. The grass roots-based CSOs, which in return benefit from such activities, could best deliver that type of assistance. Cooperation with CSOs, to be differentiated from NGOs, takes place at local and regional levels. Their contribution has been recently included in overall strategic plans. An important role is assigned to training and to initiatives to facilitate dialogue on policy issues and help to build capacity. Setting national standards to reach the population on education and health problems is one of the targets. UNFPA uses NGO guidelines for dealing with CSOs, and accountability is co-managed with country or regional offices.

25. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—Throughout its history, UNHCR's relations with Civil Society have been very important–not only because of its key partnership with NGOs and increasing cooperation with the private sector, but also because the organization needs the help of communities in asylum countries to receive and integrate refugees. In order to promote global solidarity, UNHCR seeks the support and active involvement of Civil Society. Furthermore, Civil

[10] A/CONF.191/L.20.

[11] UNEP/GC.21/19.

Society plays an essential role in creating a more positive image of refugees. Organized Civil Society plays a fundamental role in the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, and its increased participation in decision-making is promoted along with its role in setting standards in the area of protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. The role of CSOs is even more effective when their work is carried out in networks of CSOs and UNHCR. In this regard, UNHCR supports the work of protection networks that function in various countries and regions of Latin America and the Caribbean. At its forthcoming Ministerial Meeting of States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or to its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, UNHCR will recognize the important role that Civil Societies play in protecting and assisting refugees and asylum-seekers, and in strengthening protection capacities. In this regard, UNHCR aims to examine further ways of strengthening partnerships for protection, not only with host and donor governments (including national legislatures), but also with NGOs, Civil Society, and refugees.

26. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)—In UNICEF, cooperation with CSOs takes place in three key sectors: health care, basic education, and water sanitation. The aim is to fortify the capacity of CSOs to be responsible and prepared to manage their problems. Partnership with CSOs is part of a tripartite process in which they are involved with UNICEF and governments for the co-management of projects. The country teams are usually the channels for consultation with national CSOs and when needed, they act in coordination with other entities interested in a project. UNICEF already includes CSOs in its information-sharing, communication and networking on technical cooperation programmes. A novelty is the emergence of CSO initiatives in proposing programmes jointly to UNICEF and local governments, and offering financial and structural contributions. The UNICEF policy empowers CSOs to make proposals for the participation and implementation of programmes. Where appropriate, UNICEF envisages extending training and capacity-building opportunities to CSO staff at the national level. Problems of accountability are solved through co-management with the local authorities. UNICEF is paying attention to the issue of how to ensure the transition process after the completion of a programme and to prepare CSOs to step in, absorb and eventually improve the acquired results. No guidelines exist for dealing with CSOs, but Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and pragmatic procedures are in place.

27. World Food Programme (WFP)—In the WFP, CSOs contribute and participate in the delivery and distribution of food. In traditional "Food-for-Work" projects, WFP has switched from big projects such as public work programmes, to smaller community-based projects which are directly related to the beneficiaries, such as the building of "feeder" roads and of schools. As a result of these changes in its approach to development and participatory approaches, WFP has greatly expanded its number of non-governmental implementing partners. In 2000, WFP worked with over 1,100 international and national NGOs, with a number of the local NGOs meeting the definition of a CSO set out in this report. WFP is particularly interested in working with local CSOs experienced in programming areas relatively new to WFP, such as assistance to persons living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

28. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)—As a service provider, UNOPS looks at CSOs as an interesting partner. Projects are aimed at improving empowerment and capacity-building at national and local levels. Training is one of the targets, especially in programmes such as mine clearance in which local communities are likely to play an important role. Microfinance is another field of engagement to support economic development, to teach management of funds, to organize small businesses, and to generate income. Emphasis is placed on involving and raising the interest of small communities and villages, sometimes with a limited financial contribution from the beneficiaries. It happens that services are outsourced to CSOs, which receive compensation as implementing partners. The choice of projects is made in agreement with governments. Those projects with broad ramifications favour interaction with the population through CSOs and have relevance for project management and good governance.

UNOPS does not have specific guidelines or focal points for CSOs. The approach is pragmatic, and accountability, when required, follows standard rules. UNOPS underlines that the involvement of CSOs is particularly useful in complex situations. In the Africa 2000 Network Programme (an initiative that began in 1989 with the goal of promoting environmentally-sustainable livelyhoods), UNOPS works directly with CSOs across the region. UNOPS helps communities identify their own development priorities and then design their own projects for grant funding. Project proposals submitted for grant funding are selected through a CSO group review process. CSOs then receive and manage the funds directly to realize the projects. Based on this successful model, UNOPS set up the management structures for the UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme in the same way. Aside from designing and managing projects, CSOs play a major role in formulating the country programme strategy in each of the programme countries, which number more than fifty.

29. International Labour Organization (ILO)—ILO recognizes that CSOs have a valuable role to play especially in areas where its constituencies are less represented and not directly involved. They can greatly benefit from the advocacy skills and resources of civic associations particularly in development activities at the field level. Collaboration with CSOs is subject to the identification of areas where activities can be carried out while preserving the integrity of the ILO tripartite structure. At the national level, trade unions and employers' organizations often work with Civil Society associations in the pursuit of common goals in development partnerships and in promoting voice and action in areas of ILO concern, such as labour rights, gender, children, the disabled and the elderly. The agency does not have guidelines for dealing with CSOs. They do however, have focal points in different departments according to their specific competencies.

30. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)—FAO's concept of Civil Society is a broad one, including all non-State actors apart from for-profit businesses. Because of this approach, FAO does not feel the need for the development of a standard framework for technical cooperation with CSOs, given the great diversity of United Nations agencies and their fields and styles of activity on the one hand, and the great diversity of CSOs on the other. FAO has a long history of cooperation with community-based and rural peoples' organizations in the field of agricultural development and food security, and with NGOs/CSOs generally since the early 1960s. In late 1999, it published a new *FAO Policy and Strategy for Cooperation with Non-Governmental and other Civil Society Organizations*[12] to meet the challenge of cooperating with the rapidly expanding NGO/CSO sector. Based on broad consultation with NGO/CSO partners in all regions and with FAO technical units and decentralized offices, this document provides a framework for enhanced cooperation in four interrelated functional areas: information-sharing and analysis, policy dialogue, field programmes and resource mobilization. The framework was discussed at Regional FAO-NGO/CSO Consultations held in 2000, and translated into action plans for cooperation adapted to each different regional context. FAO has a specific unit for promoting NGO/CSO cooperation, which operates in collaboration with an Internal NGO/CSO Working Group made up of representatives of all headquarters units and regional offices.

31. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)—UNESCO has a flexible and comprehensive notion of Civil Society. NGO partners of UNESCO include academic institutions, scientific corporations, professional associations, religious and cultural associations, intellectual and research entities, women and youth groups, unions and local associations, without exclusion of the private sector. For UNESCO, the "Civil Society agents" are those actors who have a role to play in democratic relations in the public realm, promoting principles and values enshrined in the organization's constitution. Cooperation with the Civil Society is developed predominantly with NGOs and in fact the guidelines applied are those established for NGOs without a specific focal point for CSOs but extended to the organized Civil Society entities. Furthermore, other guidelines are also being used in the organization,

[12] D/X2214E/1/11.99/8000, Rome, FAO, 1999.

at the secretariat level for the recognition of Civil Society entities such as the Associated Schools Network, composed of some 7,000 schools in 172 countries implementing specific projects in education. This procedure is confirmed in article VI of the directives concerning relations with foundations and bodies representing Civil Society and the private sector. UNESCO recognizes that CSOs can be a valuable asset in mediation between the State and local authorities and international organizations. They can contribute to the national knowledge of economic and social realities and convey messages on social evolution and democratization. CSOs are involved in meetings dealing with issues of interest to them and are beneficiaries of projects on training and capacity-building.

32. World Health Organization (WHO)—For WHO, being a social-sector agency, the involvement of CSOs is mainly at the country level. Cooperation with CSOs is not new to the organization, but due to the increased influence of non-State actors in public health programmes, which made the involvement of CSOs even more necessary. Apart from its long-standing partnership with NGOs which have been associated successfully in the implementation of many multisectoral health projects, WHO is seeking a closer partnership with non-State actors, especially CSOs, in order to achieve sustainable health outcomes. For that purpose, a new Civil Society Initiative was launched in 2001 in view of assessing the current relationship with CSOs, reviewing the appropriate mechanisms to foster interaction and proposing a wider framework for more effective action. Tentative fields for the Initiative to be further assessed and developed include a data and knowledge base review; analysis of operational and strategic issues; compilation of best practices; proposals for collaboration; and information, communication and training programmes. WHO is thus responding to the increased participation of CSOs both in national governance and in policy-making at global levels.

33. International Maritime Organization (IMO)—IMO aims, within its Regional Programme, to establish partnerships with environmentally committed interest groups and with local governments in addressing coastal and marine management problems. Four key approaches are utilized to engage Civil Society groups in coastal management; development and implementation of communication strategies; consultation and participation in the project cycle; collaboration in the implementation of project activities; and training in relevant areas of coastal management. For good results management, participatory activities should be focused simultaneously at the community level; stakeholders and institutions at the national level. CSOs have a vital role in natural resources management. The indigenous knowledge of Civil Society groups with regard to coastal and marine environments is an important input for planning and decision-making at the local, national and regional levels. IMO follows UNDP guidelines, internal rules and regulations for management and accountability for cooperation with CSOs. Its Technical Cooperation Division is promoting partnerships with regional and international CSOs in the maritime sector.

34. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)—Reflecting the continuing needs of developing countries for a modern and effective intellectual property system, and to enable the intellectual property user community to effectively use this system, the WIPO cooperation for development programme traditionally keeps close cooperation links with Civil Society and attaches great importance to their capacity-building. The user community includes industry, in particular Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), research and development institutions, academia, artists, musicians, writers, composers, collective management societies, inventors and trade associations, attorneys, associations of intellectual property rights owners, and consumer associations. Numerous WIPO training activities are supported and assisted by Civil Society institutions, such as training institutes and intellectual property associations, which regularly cooperate with WIPO by hosting or co-organizing training sessions. Moreover, WIPO cooperates with academic institutions and universities by providing training for professors in the field of intellectual property law. The WIPO World Wide Academy works closely with a large number of cooperating universities, research institutes, industrial property and copyright offices, and is seeking to further increase this collaboration in

the next biennium. The WIPO SME programme maintains constructive links with relevant Civil Society institutions to encourage dynamic linkages amongst universities, research and development institutions, financing and venture capital institutions, and other SMEs.

35. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)—UNIDO cooperates with CSOs in a wide spectrum of industry-related activities such as the environment, energy, small and medium industry development, entrepreneurship (including women), investments, technology, rural industry, standardization, and the quality of production. It is agreed that CSOs should not be confused with NGOs. An important role can be played within the context of the dialogue between the public and the private sector in convincing governments of the benefits of working with CSOs which should be brought into the negotiation process. In general, intensive cooperation takes place at the different project stages.[13] The UNIDO policy is guided by the recognition of the advantages of working with CSOs: in proximity to their constituents, flexibility and a high degree of motivation. On the other hand, weaknesses lie in their diversity, lack of organization and irregular funding. For these reasons, UNIDO puts great effort into the capacity-building of CSOs. Their training is intensely developed. Resort to academia is frequent. General guidelines are included for the formulation of integrated programmes. UNIDO has a focal point for CSOs.

36. The World Bank has increased its engagement in global consultations with Civil Society in order to allow more proactive interaction between itself and CSOs in addressing specific issues. Having recognized that Civil Society is an important actor in development, the World Bank has improved its process of consultation with CSOs to listen to their suggestions and then incorporate them into its initiatives. Particular attention is devoted to operational collaboration at the country level in the formulation of Country Assistance Strategies and Poverty Reduction Strategies. New structures have been put in place to improve the involvement of CSOs in development programmes. An NGO and Civil Society Unit of Social Development has been established and specialized staff members are assigned to work with Civil Society in many resident missions. The strategy of the World Bank includes:

Enhancing assistance to governments to improve the quality of the participation of Civil Society in the World Bank's lending and non-lending instruments;

Consolidating the civic engagement agenda at the macrolevel, particularly in country policy-making and budgetary processes;

Advancing the debate on the role of Civil Society and multilateral institutions in the global context. Renewed attention is devoted to participation in the Poverty Reduction Strategy to support country frameworks for action to evaluate the poverty impact on national strategies and development assistance. A Civic Engagement and Participation Group of the Social Development Department has been newly created for that purpose. Valuable information about the World Bank's cooperation with Civil Society is provided in the section on "Operational Collaboration at the Country Level: Regional Highlights", in the report *World Bank-Civil Society Collaboration – Progress Report for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001*.[14]

37. Other areas of recognition are the efforts being made by the regional commissions of the United Nations in developing partnerships with CSOs that are directly related to the economic and social development of their regions. The status of the contributions of the commissions is as follows:

38. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)—ECA has made a remarkable effort by taking concrete action and launching the African Centre for Civil Society in 1977. The Centre addresses the critical issues of how NGOs and CSOs could play a more active and effective role as

[13] An interesting example of this is the pilot project for Africa concerning Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Senegal, discussed in UNIDO report YA/RAS/01/408 *Screening Form for Regional Integrated Programmes. Programming Exercise for Agro-industries in West Africa: Upgrading capabilities of intermediary Civil Society Organizations* (no date).

[14] See page 11.

intermediaries promoting the interest and priorities of their grass-roots constituencies. It will develop and offer core programmes to train African Civil Society leaders, and ongoing technical advisory services. The Centre is located in the Development Management Division, and is designed to enhance Civil Society participation in development and governance. During the African Development Forum Civil Society Organization consultations meeting held in 2000 (prepared by ECA), it was recognized by the participants that CSOs have taken initiatives that have already met important leadership challenges. These include programmatic engagement, whereby community-based organizations work with government structures in providing: basic medical and social services; social mobilization for the HIV/AIDS pandemic; human rights protection in that they play a major role in fighting against discrimination and the ill-treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS; and in international networking, where CSOs have shown great strength. They are able to network, learn lessons quickly, cross-fertilize and apply pressure across countries. International pressure is often exercised on many levels, including national political leadership, international institutions, pharmaceutical and medical establishments, and others.

39. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)—Another sound example is the cooperation of ECLAC with governments, United Nations system organizations and CSOs during a regional conference organized by ECLAC in 2001 on "Social capital and poverty reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean: towards a new paradigm". The conference was co-sponsored, inter alia, by the Governments of France and Italy; the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank.

40. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)—ESCWA has CSOs under its sector of affiliations which detail its cooperation with Civil Society institutions. It participated in a Workshop on Women in the Arab Non-Governmental Organizations organized in cooperation with the Arab Network for NGOs (Al-Shabaka). Within this context, ESCWA provided assistance and participated in meetings of a number of local NGOs dealing with women and gender issues, such as the Tunisian Mothers' Association. The Commission also participated in the Business and Investment Forum for Renewable Energy Sources in the Arab Region, and an ESCWA representative presented a paper entitled "*Globalization and future labour markets*".

### B. Existing mechanism for cooperation

41. Almost all United Nations system organizations involved in technical cooperation have elaborated guidelines for action with NGOs and the private sector. However, they do not have explicit guidelines for cooperation with CSOs. Some use the existing guidelines for relations with NGOs and the majority of organizations enter agreements on the basis of an MOU drawn up by each agency on an ad hoc basis. Such MOUs, in principle, contain the broad-based participation of CSOs in the programming process as well as some policy issues. Furthermore, some use the exchange of letters, minutes and joint communiqués, while others issue contracts based on current organizations' rules and regulations. There are also organizations which have formal guidelines related only to the procedures for granting consultative status to CSO. (UNIDO and the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP)). In 1999, the NGO and Civil Society Unit of Social Development of the World Bank prepared general guidelines for its staff to conduct consultations with CSOs. The guidelines are intended to provide assistance to the World Bank staff in facilitating consultations with CSOs on projects, policy, and investment lending. An additional tool, the World Bank's *Working Document*[15], published in 2001, expands on these issues in greater detail and adds further background information and examples.

42. The findings reveal that some organizations are in favour of specific guidelines (UNIDO, UNEP), while others have a preference for flexible and pragmatic procedures. WIPO believes that the possibility of establishing guidelines for cooperation with CSOs should not be excluded in its future activities.

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[15] Paula Lytle, William Reuben and Najma Siddiqi, ***Skills Enhancement and Team Building. Consultations with Civil Society: A Sourcebook–Working Document***, NGO and Civil Society Unit, SDV (August 2001).

## C. Criteria for selecting CSOs as partners and counterparts

43. Most of the organizations visited by the Inspector do not yet have established criteria for selecting CSOs as partners. On the contrary, all have methods of according consultative status to NGOs, after approval by their legislative organs or through acceptance of the established Economic and Social Council procedure. Some organizations use the criteria for NGOs to cooperate with CSOs; others have developed MOUs according to the project. The multiplicity of non-State actors does not allow a single approach for dealing with all types of relationships. What does matter is the unity of purpose consisting of enhancing the participation of the United Nations system in the interest of Member States and their peoples.[16]

44. The Inspector is of the opinion that, although proposing standard guidelines and establishing criteria for selecting CSOs as partners and counterparts might not be a priority for some organizations in their cooperation with CSOs, it is, however, a reality that the evolution of this cooperation has a huge potential for growth in the very near future. At a certain point therefore, having a standard framework which could be adapted to the different situations and needs of the organizations based on the experience of cooperation with NGOs and the private sector (see annex III of A/56/323) but specific to the nature of CSOs, would be useful in order to facilitate dealing with them **(recommendation 2)**. Such a standard framework should also include procedures for accountability, reporting and determining their legitimacy to represent their constituencies. This will no doubt help CSOs, especially at the country level (and dealing with a plurality of United Nations organizations all at the same time) to have a general understanding of the benefits and requirements of cooperation with the system. It will also help CSOs to understand what is expected of them when considered as partners by the organizations.

45. Standard accountability and transparency are one of the requirements of the reviewing and controlling bodies of the United Nations system. Member States repeatedly requested that these requirements be part of the project component. An effort, therefore, needs to be made to take into account such a procedure in the partnership with the system. Accountability and transparency should also guide CSOs towards their own constituencies. Where such a practice is already included in existing agreements, legislative organs should recommend a policy in order that a common set of principles be followed by the organization in their dealings with CSOs **(recommendation 3).**

## D. Focal points for coordinating CSO activities

### *1. Establishing focal points*

46. Cooperation with CSOs and their increased participation in the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations organizations, both at Headquarters and at country level require more focused attention by the system. Relationships between agency programmes and national, regional and global CSOs are intensifying. The United Nations is aware of the fact that it has not kept up with the recent surge in Civil Society activism. One of the goals of all who deal with non-State partners is to maximize their input into the substantive work of the system by taking advantage of both their expertise in certain areas and the very nature of many organizations, which would enable them to identify emerging trends with great accuracy.

47. During his inquiries, the Inspector remarked that some of the organizations with major technical cooperation programmes had established a separate unit as a focal point to coordinate collaboration with CSOs. These were: DESA, FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNIDO and WHO. The World Bank had assigned specialized World Bank staff members to work with Civil Society. In the early 1990s, the Bank did not have any such staff, but, by the end of fiscal year 2001, the World Bank had appointed Social Development/Civil Society Specialists and NGO Liaison Officers in about 70 resident missions.[17] UNDP has had an established unit dedicated to NGOs since 1986, which in 1993

[16] A/56/326, para. 301.

[17] *World Bank-Civil Society Collaboration–Progress Report for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001*, p. 2.

became known as the Civil Society Organizations and Participation Programme to reflect the UNDP policy of broadening engagement to include the full range of Civil Society actors in its work. As part of UNDP restructuring in 2001, the Unit is now called the Civil Society Organizations Team and is anchored within the Bureau for Strategic Partnership and working in close matrix fashion with the Bureau for Development Policy. It is responsible for policy direction and support to the various divisions at UNDP headquarters and country offices in engagement with CSOs. At the regional level, the Bureau for Development Policy's CSO and Poverty Advisors have been outposted to the regions to provide timely policy support to country offices. At headquarters, the regional bureaux have a system of CSO focal points.

48. Designating United Nations focal points for certain aspects of the organizations with system-wide relevance is useful for obtaining centralized information instead of fragmented information from scattered sources. Furthermore, it could be beneficial for coordination purposes inside the competent agency, with the United Nations system at large and other interested external actors. The Inspector therefore is of the opinion that, if not already in place, the possibility of establishing a focal point should be explored as part of existing structures.

49. In connection with CEB meetings, consultations among focal points, either directly or through the existing network of UNGLS as appropriate, could be envisaged when relevant issues on sustainable development are examined **(recommendation 2(c)).**

### *2. Networking*

50. In 1999, the Administrative Committee on coordination (ACC) (now CEB), while discussing the challenges of globalization and how to meet them, indicated common areas of action within the context of effective relationships, inter alia, through issue-based networks, and urged deeper relations with Civil Society.[18] Furthermore, during its meeting in early 2000, the executive heads decided to strengthen arrangements for a continuous exchange of information on experiences concerning interaction with Civil Society, and to draw lessons from best practices for the benefit of the system as a whole.[19] The World Bank took the initiative and prepared the first major launch of the Global Development Gateway in 2001. The Gateway is web-based portal http://www.developmentgateway.org, bringing together other donors, governments, businesses, and CSOs to exchange information, seek common goals, and build partnerships to promote development, and to address poverty worldwide. Due to the often isolated nature of vast segments of Civil Society in the developing world, the potential value to be derived from Internet connectivity and access to computer technology is especially important.[20]

51. The Inspector fully supports these initiatives as suitable for exchanging information at the inter-agency level and with non-State actors to give fresh input to the elaboration of common policies for cooperating with CSOs.

52. Contributions to this purpose may include the publication of a comprehensive list of selected and recognized CSOs with their postal and web site addresses. The list could be completed later with providing more information on the profile and types of activities. Such a working tool would improve communication between the United Nations organizations and CSOs, as well as among CSOs. National CSOs without a web site could be assisted by the United Nations system to be gradually equipped with one. The design of appropriate kits for United Nations staff as a guide to training programmes in favour of CSOs could be part of the activities of the United Nations Staff College in Turin, devoted to the sector **(recommendation 7(b)).**

53. Information-sharing, communication and networking are essential for the United Nations organizations active in technical cooperation at the global, regional and country levels. The process should consider, whenever possible, ways and means to include CSOs. Web sites appear to be appropriate tools for disseminating information

[18] E/2000/53.

[19] E/2001/55.

[20] *World Bank-Civil Society Collaboration–Progress Report for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001*, p. 24.

and developing links with CSOs. The United Nations organizations dealing with economic and social development should be encouraged to include in their web sites selected information on CSOs engaged in technical cooperation activities for the benefit of CSOs in general, and in particular, for those which do not have a web site. For CSOs already equipped with a web site, it would be useful for United Nations organization web sites to have hyperlinks, thereby making it possible to connect readers to the web sites of relevant CSOs. But when they have no access to the Internet, other, more accessible means, such as the printed word and radio, should be used and developed **(recommendation 9)**.

## E. Partnership and participation of CSOs

54. Interaction between the United Nations and CSOs has been going on in many fields of activity carried out by the system, often in informal and pragmatic ways. However, the vibrant emergence of CSOs in recent times has changed the pattern of the relationship. The traditional mode of cooperation was that Civil Society of developing countries was considered predominantly as a beneficiary of the programmes and projects of the United Nations system. Hence, in most cases the beneficiaries were only consulted occasionally or only involved in the launching of programmes and projects. The system lacked transparency and accountability to its beneficiaries as well as to its donors. Projects were implemented without consideration of their sustainability, and without a sound mechanism to check the impact and results of the activity. Occasionally, the United Nations organizations would initiate a project, implement it directly or through another United Nations system organization, and/or external subcontractor. Once the task was accomplished, the follow-up was weak or non-existent. The problem remained to assure that the ensuing result would be preserved and possibly improved. The solution to these problems can be offered through a broad partnership approach to development by strengthening the consultative mechanism led by the government, but with the participation of all the interested parties of which the CSO is an essential component. The process implies a mutually agreed division of labour and consequently CSOs should have a recognized and assigned role.

55. The emergence of CSOs suggests changes in this pattern of cooperation and introduces a new approach requiring CSOs to be partners in the selection, preparation, appraisal, approval, implementation, supervision, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up of programmes and projects. This new development challenges the United Nations structure and Member States to involve CSOs more efficiently. The reform process of the United Nations system recommends in fact that the process be integrated into the policies and procedures of the Organization in a transparent way. Furthermore, the system is gradually benefiting from the conviction that it is comparatively advantageous to work with CSOs. Significant concrete examples, inter alia, are the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the General Conference on HIV/AIDS. On this subject, it is pertinent to mention the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council 2001, which stated that the challenges for the coming biennium included "expanding Civil Society in the response through enhanced partnership with associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, community-based organizations, religious groups, non-governmental organizations working in relevant sectors and the private sector".[21] Also, World Bank-Civil Society collaboration has increased notably in addressing HIV/AIDS concerns. Throughout fiscal 2001, the World Bank committed US$ 501 million for new HIV/AIDS prevention and care efforts. In September 2000, through its Multi-Country AIDS Programme for Africa (MAP), and in partnership with UNAIDS against AIDS in Africa, the World Bank made US$ 500 million in credits available to any African country that met simple eligibility requirements, including eligibility for International Development Association credits. Members of Civil Society will be active in implementing the MAP projects.[22] Furthermore, the United Nations Information and Communication Technology Task Force (UNICT) is worth mentioning. Through UNEP cooperation with CSOs such as the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Union, the programme has helped in capacity-

[21] E/2001/82.

[22] *World Bank-Civil Society Collaboration–Progress Report for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001*, p. 11.

building and information dissemination in various countries.

56. The above examples are just some of the cross-cutting sectoral initiatives which involve the United Nations system organizations, CSOs, the private sector and governments of developed and developing countries. There are other timely issues such as poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women, which could benefit from such a cross-cutting partnership. (Analysis of the existing tools and perspectives are contained in chapter III of the report.) During the World Summit for Social Development, held in 1995 and which involved the participation of hundreds of CSOs, governments committed themselves to the goal of eradicating poverty as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind.

### F. Enhanced role of local, national and international CSOs

57. The variegated fields of activity of CSOs and their entities underline their potential and complementarity with the goals and programmes of the United Nations. At the local level, they can provide information as representatives of their communities; be reliable channels of communication between the population and the system; assess the needs of a community and help design programmes; and play a part in the implementation and follow-up of projects during and following the departure of the United Nations. Their role is also effective in the improvement of good governance. Good governance extends beyond the State, encompassing organizations in the private sector and in Civil Society. It refers to a new type of relationship between the State and Civil Society at national, regional and local levels. This premise should guide the formulation of strategies for rehabilitation and social sustainability programmes from their inception. In order to improve performance in these functions, local and national CSOs need to be trained and empowered, and their organizational structures strengthened in terms of administrative and managerial capacities **(recommendation 5)**.

58. It is worth recalling that CSOs are also active at international and academic levels. Institutions such as Chambers of Commerce and Industry, federations of industry, trade unions, professional and manufacturers' associations, academic foundations, to mention just some of the best-known and more active players, can be useful interlocutors of the organizations. The fact that CSOs are less bureaucratic than public institutions is an advantage. Their lobbying power and the capacity to regroup a large number of stakeholders are also an asset.

59. The analysis suggests that coordination among the different actors of CSOs could be useful. The appropriate mechanism can be found within each agency according to types of technical cooperation activities, but the structures of CEB also offer the possibility of establishing a comprehensive view of the involvement of Civil Society in its diverse expressions at the local, national, and international levels so that its involvement is known, coordinated, and operationally more effective. Inter-agency consultations, operational collaboration with CSOs, meetings, workshops, and conferences on technical cooperation are equally appropriate environments for opportunities of togetherness and participation.

### G. The role of CEB in strengthening the relationship between the United Nations system and CSOs in technical cooperation

60. Cooperation with Civil Society has been a constant concern in former ACC meetings. As demonstrated by the significant title of one of the items of the 1997 Annual Overview report, namely "The relationship between the United Nations system and Civil Society, including the private sector: handling the global agenda with non-State actors",[23] CEB has encouraged agencies and programmes to devote increased attention to cooperation with Civil Society. The Secretary-General himself has recalled that a central concern of the reform process is the adjustment of the system to the changes that are taking place in the national and international environment.[24] He invited CEB members "to tap the vibrant energy of the Civil Society for more effective partnership with non-State actors".[25]

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[23] ACC/1997/20, para. 4.

[24] Ibid. para. 5.

[25] Ibid., para. 8.

61. The policy discussed and approved by CEB has resulted in several meetings and documents. The process of cooperation with CSOs has gained momentum and volume. It is in favour of avoiding artificial uniformity and encourages arrangements for the participation of CSOs in substantive negotiations on issues to be submitted for approval to governing bodies and legislative organs.

62. The following are some examples of suggested ways for cooperation that were taken into consideration by CEB: extending informal consultation and access to its machinery at the appropriate working level; supporting capacity-building, at national and local levels, of Civil Society groups capable of contributing to development; using the catalyst role of the United Nations in support of governments in their dialogue with Civil Society; increasing consideration of issues of accountability, financial transparency, and representation; criteria to assess CSO competitiveness in view of the selection of partners; developing training of both CSOs in management, negotiation, and the evaluation of results; and United Nations staff refining its capacity in dealing with Civil Society.[26] The United Nations Staff College in Turin is indicated to be an appropriate institution for this task. It is also important that such sensitization be incorporated in the staff briefing and training programmes of each individual agency.

63. Further elements of information are contained in a recent paper prepared by ILO and discussed during the former ACC session in early 2001.[27] The choice of ILO was prompted by the presence of Civil Society in the agency because of its tripartite structure (governments, employers and workers organizations). The paper starts from the viewpoint shared by the Inspector, namely that the complementarity between the United Nations and Civil Society is at the heart of the relationship, and recognizes that Civil Society in its different components, embodies "aspirations and values not to be confused with business interests" and has organizational characteristics of its own to justify a distinction from NGOs. The ILO paper is suggesting, inter alia, modalities to tap the potential of Civil Society, spanning involvement in implementation of plans of action agreed in global conferences and summits to consultative roles in inter-agency bodies.[28]

64. The Inspector commends the efforts of CEB to strengthen and institutionalize the relationship among the United Nations system organizations and CSOs, and supports the idea that CEB should continue to give special attention to the development of partnerships between the United Nations system organizations and non-State actors. The United Nations system repeatedly stressed the importance of involving CSOs as partners, especially in the area of economic and social activities, in response to the concerns of the international community. In this respect, CEB has an important role to play in coordinating the efforts by which such cooperation will be better structured and enhanced. It should therefore, within its High-Level Committee on Programmes, recognize and institutionalize such cooperation, and periodically report the results to the Economic and Social Council **(recommendation 4)**.

[26] E/1998/21, paras. 42-45.

[27] E/2001/55.

[28] Ibid.

## III. CSOs AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

### A. Capacity-building in the light of cooperation with CSOs

65. The UNDP glossary defines "capacity development" as follows: "the process by which individuals, groups, organizations, institutions and countries develop, enhance and organize their systems, resources and knowledge, all reflected in their abilities, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives. Capacity development is also referred to as capacity-building or strengthening." While the above UNDP definition gives the broader coverage of capacity-building, in 1999, a report prepared by the Inter-Agency Consultation on Operational Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations defined the "capacity-building concept" in the light of cooperation with CSOs as follows: "can be defined as an explicit intervention that aims to improve an organization's effectiveness and sustainability in relation to its mission and context and encompasses a wide range of activities that contribute to improving CSO performance and sustainability."[29]

66. The organizations visited by the Inspector confirmed that at the project level, there was intensive cooperation with CSOs for the benefit of capacity-building. This trend was encouraged by the agencies for the purpose of assuring the success of projects and their follow-up after the completion of the specific United Nations programme.

67. It has been proved during the last decade that CSOs play a prominent role in capacity-building at the national level. They are not only the interpreters of their constituencies' needs and aspirations, but also the link and at times, mediators, between their communities and other external development actors and the United Nations organizations. As a consequence, the United Nations is using CSOs increasingly as implementing partners in technical cooperation activities **(recommendation 6)**.

### B. Relations of CSOs with governments

68. United Nations organizations as intergovernmental bodies are responsible to Member States. CEB recalls however, that increased cooperation of the United Nations system with non-State actors at the international level does not diminish in any way interaction with governments.[30] Furthermore, it is also true that CSOs are assuming wider responsibilities as significant partners of governments and the United Nations system, which is guided towards accomplishing its long-standing goals of capacity-building of developing countries.

69. It is recognized that CSOs working in economic and social developments, be they in agriculture, industry, health or education, are important links for governments to gain outreach to the population. In many cases, the people at the grass-roots level or in far away locations are not organized and accessible to development actors. This problem could be tackled by helping local CSOs acquire the capacity needed to carry out development activities, along with the government and the United Nations system. This process could also help the adoption of appropriate legislation and institutional measures for the benefit of CSOs, which are, inter alia, acquiring a wider ground of action while the public sector is withdrawing in favour of the private sector.

70. The involvement of CSOs in designing and approving "plans of action" proposed by national and local authorities, and also their participation in management arrangements, will add to the commitment of all stakeholders and will contribute to the success of the project.

### C. The role of the United Nations system in promoting dialogue and cooperation between governments and CSOs

71. Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations states: "The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence.

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[29] *System-wide surveys of experiences and best practices in Civil Society Organization capacity-building and institutional development*," (Capac2doc.Rev.2, para. 5).

[30] ACC/1997/20.

Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned." The spirit of the above article allows the inclusion of CSOs in the arrangements foreseen.

72. The United Nations system is required now more than previously to become the link between governments and CSOs in the area of technical cooperation. Taking advantage of its long-standing experience, the system could draw on best practices to enhance this tripartite relationship and thereby make it beneficial to all concerned. If it transpires that a national authority is reluctant to accept the involvement of a CSO, the United Nations can play the useful role of honest broker to clarify the issue and help to remove the obstacle. In this connection, UNIDO offers an interesting example on how to be an effective facilitator using integrated programmes based on the division of competencies and the agreement of the three actors; namely, the government, the United Nations system, and CSOs. From the inception of the project, these parties are assigned a well-defined sector for their action. UNDP has a rich history of working with CSOs and governments to create such a space. Examples include the role UNDP played in ensuring that indigenous peoples were provided the opportunity to participate in the reconciliation process in Guatemala. Another concrete example is that of the UNEP projects such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) and ECOLEX (an initiative to provide global access to environmental law information) where tripartite (UNEP, governments and CSOs) collaboration has been profitable. FAO experience in promoting dialogue and cooperation between governments and NGOs/CSOs takes place at various levels: nationally, in the context of formulating agricultural and food security policies; regionally, through NGO/CSO consultations feeding into FAO regional conferences; and globally, through NGO/CSO participation in FAO technical committees and commissions and special events like the "World Food Summit: Five years later". These selected examples show the increasing role of the United Nations system as an essential link between governments and CSOs in technical cooperation activities.

73. UNDP for its part has issued operational guidelines for involving CSOs in all aspects of the programme planning and evaluation process, while UNICEF has also encouraged the participation of CSOs in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of its programmes, amongst others, the World Summit for Children.

74. The World Bank has its own vision of a process, which puts the country at the centre of its own development in its partnership approach to technical assistance. The approach is to be guided by the country. The government and its people are to develop their own national strategy, of which they have "ownership". The World Bank's vision calls for the development of national communities to assist the country in implementing this strategy. This process is supposed to bring together at various stages all the major actors–the government, the private sector, Civil Society and aid agencies–to discuss, debate, and agree on the development assistance component to support the national development programme. It is envisaged to call at least one meeting a year, convened by the government. The process is referred to as the Development Partner Coalition (DPC). Its output is a development assistance strategy–the government's strategy–developed in consultation with its development partners.[31]

75. The role of CSOs in technical cooperation at all levels of project planning and implementation should be strengthened through broader participation, including decision-making at the policy level. Governments should encourage such participation in order to ensure the success and sustainability of projects. In order to make CSOs fully-fledged partners of United Nations system operations, a mechanism specific to CSOs should be considered along the lines specified in **recommendation 8**.

### D. Existing mechanism for technical cooperation among governments, the United Nations system and CSOs

76. The United Nations system at the country level operates mainly through the framework of common country assessments, a process for

[31] *Partnership for Development: Proposed Actions for the World Bank*, a discussion paper of 20 May 1998, p. 17, paras. 43-44.

reviewing and analyzing the national development situation, and UNDAF, a planning and resources framework for the country programmes and projects of agencies of the United Nations (based on CCA) as well as through the United Nations resident coordinator system. "The United Nations country teams, led by United Nations resident coordinators and in close collaboration with Governments and Civil Society, undertake an interdisciplinary analytical process, the common country assessment. The common country assessment examines the national situation and identifies key issues affecting the welfare of people. It also examines national priorities as set by Governments, and uses these as a basis for advocacy and policy dialogue with Governments. Using the common understanding of the causes of poverty generated through the common country assessment process, United Nations country teams then work with Governments to prepare the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAFs), which outline how the United Nations system will respond to national poverty reduction priorities in a strategic manner ... Currently, 84 countries have completed the common country assessment, and 38 have also finalized UNDAFs."[32] It is obvious that the major initiatives at the country level (such as the fight against poverty or against poor health standards), which are part of the overall development strategy, require a concerted effort and a joint response by the system. A partnership with community-based organizations and associations at the national level is therefore indispensable. The United Nations Horn of Africa Initiative, in which FAO is playing the role of focal point, can be cited as a positive example of efforts to involve NGOs/CSOs in problem identification and programme design from the outset **(recommendation 8)**.

77. In the section of the report of the Secretary-General to the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly dealing with NGOs, it was indicated that "a project proposal has been submitted to UNDP with the objective of exploring ways in which the competent division and the country offices of UNDP can work together to facilitate the participation of national and subregional NGOs, particularly those from developing countries, in the work of the United Nations in general and the Economic and Social Council in particular".[33] The Inspector fully supports this proposal, and suggests that not only UNDP, and more specifically, the Economic and Social Council, but all agencies of the United Nations system organizations should find similar and appropriate arrangements to also include CSOs in the preparation and execution of economic and social programmes at the country level.

78. Coordinating programme activities at the country level is not an easy task and requires a high level of commitment by all partners involved in the process. It has been the constant concern of the United Nations system to remedy the shortcomings derived from fragmentation and a persistent lack of coordination which have led to duplication and the wasting of resources. Furthermore, these shortcomings put a heavy burden on the often limited managerial capacity of the recipients. The current CCA and UNDAF mechanisms therefore do not seem to take care of the issues sufficiently, nor in particular to respond fully to the new role assigned to CSOs and to their expectations. As stated in the Secretary-General's report, *Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system*,[34] the involvement of national development partners, including Civil Society, in the UNDAF process still appears to be limited. The participation of CSOs is far from being satisfactory, and the majority of resident coordinators acknowledge that further efforts should be made to improve partnership in development programmes with Civil Society.[35] At the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council for 2001, it was also underlined by several Member States that a condition for greater integration of the UNDAF framework in the national development process is wider participation of the national stakeholders in all stages of formulation and implementation, in which CSOs are among those actors considered indispensable.

79. A few recent examples which emerged during a review carried out in connection with the preparation of a JIU report are significant. The material so far gathered for the report being

[32] A/56/326, para. 296.

[33] A/54/520, para. 24.

[34] A/56/320.

[35] Ibid., add.1, para. 97.

prepared (*Extension of technical cooperation projects to end–beneficiaries: case studies in the field of water resources in four African Countries*) points to the fact that operational cooperation between the various United Nations agencies and programmes through the UNDAF process often remains too theoretical or largely incomplete (Madagascar and Zambia were two of the field observations). As suggested in the above-mentioned JIU report, there is need for a more efficient UNDAF that would reflect integrated interventions in the context of joint projects where all the stakeholders, including CSOs, would actively participate in order to maximize the benefits for the targeted communities and to optimize the results of the interventions. Such situations, when existing, underline the inconvenience from which relevant projects are suffering: the lack of convergence between the technical aspects and the participatory approaches which is essential to all the different stages of development programmes (elaboration, implementation, community animation and training) in order to ensure their success.

80. More generally, a renewed approach towards CSOs implies the increased attention of CEB to this issue, to be reflected in its programme of work, along with a revision and amplification of the present mechanism of CCA and UNDAF. In particular, the consultative process with CSOs at the national and subnational levels should be further strengthened and become instrumental in elaborating a streamlined strategy based on essential documents resulting from a common contribution **(recommendation 8).**

### E. Training within the context of capacity-building

81. Training and the transfer of knowledge are one of the essential components of technical cooperation and a cornerstone for capacity-building. A priority of the United Nations technical cooperation system has been to train national counterparts to enable them to participate in their own social and economic development, taking into account needs identified by CSOs themselves. To improve performance and to sustain what has been implemented require intensive training. Hence, a well-conceived training programme, included in the designing stages of projects and their implementation, is a guarantee of success. Serious consideration therefore needs to be given to train CSOs working directly with the United Nations system in technical cooperation programmes.

82. The design of such training programmes should include, inter alia, methods of simple bookkeeping; the preparation of concise reports to donors and beneficiaries; and guidelines for accountability and transparency and the evaluation of results. It has been pointed out to the Inspector that one of the limitations of national CSOs, in their becoming fully-fledged partners and counterparts of the United Nations system organizations, is their inadequate knowledge in the areas of programme planning, implementation and follow-up. The United Nations system could be of great assistance in this endeavour to empower and put them on equal footing with their partners.

83. More specifically, training facilities for CSOs should be included in economic and social programmes. The task of training the trainers could be part of this framework. It may happen that the staff of United Nations organizations are not fully prepared to deal with the emerging reality of CSOs. If this is the case, they should be trained on how to tackle this new aspect of technical cooperation. The United Nations Staff College in Turin can be one of the appropriate structures for this purpose as an addition to the training programmes envisaged by each agency **(recommendation 7)**.

### F. The role of women in capacity-building

84. The role of women and their essential contribution to economic and social development is a subject which would justify a report of its own and one which cannot be covered within the framework of this review. However, it would be a serious omission not to underline herewith the prominent position that women occupy in Civil Society. They are in fact not only "part and parcel" of the beneficiaries of technical cooperation programmes and projects, but also primary actors in development activities. It has been repeatedly acknowledged by the United Nations system organizations that in developing countries, women are among the pillars of economic and social development and active in a wide spectrum; from

rural initiatives, especially at the local level, to different-sized business enterprises. In many community-based organizations, women are the majority. They are at the front lines dealing with food insecurity and malnourishment, lack of clean water, insufficient or non-existent health care, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, illiteracy and scarce educational opportunities. Women are often in a better condition to reach the "unreachables" in their communities. Furthermore, because of their involvement in the cross-cutting issues of development, women are also key partners of the system in sustaining and preserving the results obtained. It is therefore indispensable that their positions inside CSOs should be recognized and adequately supported at all levels.

85. The United Nations system organizations should assist women in how to get organized and how to involve their representatives in the elaboration and implementation of technical cooperation projects. In one of his opening speeches, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in relation to gender equality, said that: "Since the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, the world better understands the need to free women to become equal participants in development. This is not just a matter of rights but of good economic sense. It is past time to lead by rhetoric; it is time to lead by example."[36]

86. It has to be recognized that if today's educated women are becoming more involved in areas of public management through participation in decision-making process, and in politics and social development, this is partly due to the fact that the United Nations has created worldwide awareness. FAO, ILO, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), IFAD, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), WFP, WHO, The World Bank, the African Centre for Women at ECA, Women in Development in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations/Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) Gender Activities are just some of the United Nations system entities which have undertaken relevant initiatives and have conducted programmes and projects dealing with women; and have posted the relevant information on their web sites. But it is also true that women are still marginalized in many areas of Civil Society. It is therefore timely and appropriate that the contribution of women to economic and social development be adequately recognized, that efforts should be pursued to empower them and to make their role in Civil Society more operational.

87. The preparatory stage of development projects involving Civil Society implies the gathering of information through contact with communities, and the discussion of issues with them individually and collectively. The second stage is to establish links with those who are already working in specific areas of concern, and the third stage is to select a community or a group of people, organized to participate in the design and implementation of programmes and projects. Female presence and participation in technical cooperation programmes are a guarantee of success and should be ensured. Their involvement has to be taken into account, in view of the follow-up to the projects and also the preservation of the results acquired during and after the United Nations presence.

88. The United Nations system organizations dealing with CSOs should place a higher value on the potential of women in general and in developing countries in particular. Action should be oriented towards training and resource mobilization to enhance their organizational and managerial skills and their knowledge of the possibilities offered by the United Nations system so that they can become reliable partners of the Organization in carrying out technical cooperation activities. Member States and donors should also provide financial resources intended for this purpose **(recommendation 5(b))**.

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[36] The National Summit on Africa: Claiming the 21st Century.

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**Fifty-seventh session**
Item 22 (f) of the preliminary list*
**Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization**

# Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

On 7 December 2001, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/44, in which it invited the United Nations system, its relevant bodies and the international community to continue to provide technical assistance, as appropriate, to the States members of the Economic Cooperation Organization and its secretariat in strengthening their early warning systems, preparedness, capacity for timely responses and rehabilitation, with a view to reducing human casualties and mitigating the socio-economic impact of natural disasters.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the resolution. The present report provides a brief resume of the status of the cooperative relationship between the Economic Cooperation Organization and various United Nations organizations during 2001 and 2002.

* A/57/50/Rev.1.

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# I. Background

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/44 of 7 December 2001 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution. The report provides a brief resume of the status of the cooperative relationship between ECO and various United Nations organizations during 2001 and 2002.

# II. Status of the cooperative relationship between the Economic Cooperation Organization and various United Nations organizations

## United Nations Development Programme

2. The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) has provided financial and technical assistance valued at US$ 1 million for capacity-building of the ECO secretariat. The multi-State consultancies in the priority fields of ECO and training courses of ECO staff were introduced in the project, which had terminated by the end of 2001. The ECO secretariat library, along with its information technology system, was also upgraded. The unspent amount of the allocated fund for the project has been allocated to the priority projects of ECO in the fields of transport and trade for future cooperation with UNDP in the year 2002.

## United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

3. ECO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are endeavouring to implement the provisions of a memorandum of understanding between them. Currently, both organizations are involved in: (a) implementation of the joint ECO/UNCTAD/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)/Islamic Development Bank (IDB) project on multimodal transport; and (b) provision of technical assistance b UNCTAD to ECO in developing a regional investmer agreement.

4. UNCTAD was instrumental in drafting an preparing a project document entitled "Importance c trade efficiency and trade management in the EC region". ECO is endeavouring to revive the projec with the assistance of UNCTAD and UNDP.

5. In a meeting held in Geneva on 23 April 200 between the heads of the two organizations, it wa agreed to build further on the existing cooperation wit respect to formulating joint approaches in developin programmes that would attract the support of the don agencies. During that meeting, the issue reconstruction of Afghanistan also came und discussion. The Secretary-General of UNCTA expressed his full commitment to supporting an initiative that ECO may undertake in future, aimed ameliorating the situation in Afghanistan.

## International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC)

6. A trade flow analysis of the countries in th region was presented during an International Trad Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC) mission to the EC secretariat in March 2000. The ITC analysis outline existing trade potentials in the region to boost the lev of intraregional trade from its current ratio of about 6 per cent. A project on promoting ECO trade b organizing a meeting of buyers and sellers has starte The first buyers/sellers meeting of business peop from the textiie and clothing sector took place Istanbul in October 2001. The next buyers/sellir meeting on agriculture and food products will be he in the first half of 2003 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. It anticipated that the project will have a positive impa on intraregional trade and in respect of enhanci business contacts among member States' tradi companies.

7. The same project also envisages the holding of meeting of the "ECO Business Forum", which wou provide a platform to the business community of ECO member States for presenting their vie collectively to the leaders of member States on t sidelines of the seventh ECO Summit and Twel Meeting of the Council of Ministers, scheduled to held from 9 to 14 October 2002.

## Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

8. ESCAP and ECO continue to engage in dialogue with a view to strengthening the cooperative relationship in the areas of mutual interests. To this end, the Secretary-General of ECO participated in the fifty-eighth session of ESCAP held in Bangkok in May 2002. A number of potential activities for joint implementation were identified during the visit. ECO will also be invited to make a substantive contribution to the fourteenth meeting of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation scheduled to be held in Bangkok in November 2002, as the Meeting will focus on trade and investment issues for South Asia, which covers some ECO member countries, namely, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

9. In its *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 2002*,[1] ESCAP analysed the impact of the dramatic global slowdown upon the economic performance of the 10 member countries of ECO. The *Survey* also highlighted the needs of developing member countries of ESCAP, including the ECO member countries, in respect of achieving the millennium development goals of poverty eradication, universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and employment of women, reduction of child mortality and improvement of maternal health.

10. Under the ESCAP project on capacity-building for managing globalization, which covers all ECO member countries with economies in transition, ECO will be invited to participate substantially in some of the project activities. The project aims at facilitating the subregional, regional and global integration of these countries and enabling them to respond effectively to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization by strengthening their domestic capacity. The project has three components, namely, macroeconomic policy, trade policy and facilitation, and investment promotion and facilitation.

11. ESCAP will continue its cooperation and contribute to the ECO third seminar on trade and investment information networking to be held later in 2002 with an objective of establishing an ECO network for trade and investment information exchange.

12. ESCAP has continued its cooperation with ECO in the field of transport and commenced the implementation of the joint project on international multimodal transport operations in the ECO region. The project, financed by the Islamic Development Bank, is designed to identify physical and non-physical constraints on the smooth flow of transport, and to assist in institutional strengthening, capacity-building and facilitation.

13. In cooperation with ECO, the implementation of the project for capacity-building in developing interregional land and land-cum-sea transport linkages, as well as of the project for development of a regional intergovernmental agreement for the Asian Highway Network, has commenced.

14. ESCAP, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and ECO continued to cooperate under the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) in the field of transport facilitation and border-crossing movement, with ECO participating in the Programme's Project Working Group.

15. ECO and ESCAP have agreed to participate in the next phase of the Silk Road Area Development Project with the sole aim of securing more coordinated development of a transport network and transit arrangements in the ECO subregion.

16. ECO was represented by the Deputy Secretary-General of ECO in the third session of the ESCAP Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development, held in Bangkok in October 2001, where a number of potential activities were identified for cooperation between the two organizations in the energy and environment sectors.

17. ECO was also represented at the ESCAP Regional Workshop to Finalize the Guidelines on Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources Development, held in Bangkok in December 2001. Cooperation with ECO is envisaged in the implementation of follow-up activities on the application of the Guidelines.

18. ECO contributed, through a resource person, to the International Training Course for Energy Managers from West and Central Asia, held in Ankara from 4 to 14 June 2002 within the framework of SPECA.

19. In the wake of the participation of an ECO secretariat representative in the twelfth session of the ESCAP Working Group of Statistical Experts, held in November 2001, the possibility of co-organizing a

subregional workshop on national accounts is being explored.

## United Nations Industrial Development Organization

20. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is assisting in the ECO effort to build capacity in small and medium-sized enterprises of member States. In this respect, a joint ECO/UNIDO International Centre for Science and High Technology seminar on technology management and technology transfer negotiations was held in Tehran from 23 to 26 June 2001, with the technical and financial assistance of UNIDO.

## United Nations International Drug Control Programme

21. The first phase of a project to establish a Drug Control Coordination Unit in the ECO secretariat was completed in December 2000. During the implementation period, funds provided by the European Union (EU) and Japan were utilized, with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as the project's executing agency. The United Nations Office for Project Services was associated with the project and provided the equipment. The following activities were undertaken:

(a) All member States introduced their national focal points;

(b) Two task force meetings on law enforcement and coordination of member States were held at Tehran from 26 to 28 February 2000;

(c) An inventory mission to all member States, except Afghanistan, was undertaken during April and May 2000;

(d) A provisional glossary of State and non-State actors active in the field of drug control was prepared and sent to member States;

(e) Provisional country profiles for 1999-2000 pertaining to the drug situation and provisional drug trends in the member States were circulated;

(f) A web site for the drug control coordination unit was designed and is in the process of being launched.

22. A draft document for the second phase of the project was signed on 14 June 2002. Based on the work of the first phase of the project, new activities are being planned and carried out with funds from EU.

## United Nations Population Fund

23. Within the framework of the memorandum of understanding between ECO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), five joint activities have taken place, the last being a conference held at Istanbul in May 2000 on expanding contraceptive choice and improving quality of reproductive health programmes. Currently both organizations are collaborating to organize a seminar on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and adolescent health in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in 2002.

## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

24. Since 1997, ECO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have established a fruitful cooperation framework within which to achieve food security and sustainable agricultural development in the ECO region. ECO is benefiting extensively from the technical assistance of FAO in many aspects. The organizations have initiated Joint Identification Missions to selected ECO member countries to assess the possibility of preparing a regional project document on ECO cooperation in agriculture to be submitted for donor consideration.

25. Currently, ECO and FAO, through its Regional Office for the Near East, are working to elaborate a regional strategy for food security and agricultural development in the ECO region.

26. ECO has also been an institutional supporter of the World Food Summit: Five Years Later, held from 10 to 13 June 2002 in Rome. Besides participating in the Summit meeting, it took part in the side event of the Summit organized for the ECO region.

## III. Conclusions and recommendations

27. **It is recommended that various specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and relevant international financial institutions join in their efforts towards implementation of economic programmes and projects of ECO.**

*Notes*

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.F.25.

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**Fifty-seventh session**
Item 67 (i) of the preliminary list*
**General and complete disarmament: convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament**

# Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. On 29 November 2001, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/24 D, entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament", in paragraph 2 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of States Members of the United Nations on the objectives, agenda and timing of the special session and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, on 4 March 2002, addressed a note verbale to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are reproduced in chapter II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Governments

## A. El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[29 April 2002]

Bearing in mind the objectives of resolution 56/24 D, the Government of El Salvador recalls that undertakings have been made on the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and on the control and reduction of conventional weapons. With regard to those undertakings, the Framework Treaty on Democratic Security in Central America refers to the prohibition of such weapons. Concerning the agenda and timing of the session, the Salvadoran authorities share the view that it is important that there should be a consensus among Member States on the objectives and agenda of the session, as well as a favourable climate conducive to the attainment of clear and practical results as a basis for deciding on the timing of the special session devoted to disarmament.

## B. Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[5 June 2002]

### 1. Objectives

Ratification by Member States of the treaties for the prohibition of nuclear tests and mines.

On the basis of the treaty for the prohibition of mines, the introduction of measures to control the use, stockpiling, production and illegal marketing of anti-personnel land mines.

Establishment of mechanisms to bring about nuclear disarmament and to prohibit the production of material for the manufacture of atomic weapons.

Exchange of information and coordination between the security forces of the States Members of the United Nations in order to combat illicit arms trafficking.

Establishment of safeguards for non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of such weapons.

2. **Programmes**

Imposition of sanctions on countries that allow the illegal trafficking in small arms and light weapons, munitions and explosives following the end of armed conflicts.

Ways of avoiding the use or threat of toxins and chemical and/or biological agents.

## C. Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[29 April 2002]

- Compelling the major States to halt the production and utilization of nuclear weapons.
- Achieving general and complete disarmament subject to effective international safeguards.
- Mobilizing the international community and public opinion with a view to the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and limiting and reducing conventional weapons.
- Utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Qatar hopes that the agenda of the special session of the General Assembly will include these objectives and that the session will be convened as decided by the Secretary-General.

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**General and complete disarmament: observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control**

# Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

## Report of the Secretary-General

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# I. Introduction

1. On 29 November 2002, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/24 F, entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control", in paragraph 4 of which the Assembly invited all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General information on the measures they have adopted to promote the objectives envisaged in the resolution and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing that information to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, on 4 March 2002, addressed a note verbale to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are reproduced in chapter II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

# II. Replies received from Governments

## Bulgaria

[Original: English]
[9 May 2002]

1. In order to protect the environment in accordance with current Bulgarian legislation, the competent Bulgarian authority — the Ministry of Defence, undertakes the following activities for the control, reduction and elimination of the contamination which could occur during military training and the destruction and demilitarization of military equipment and property in the areas and sites managed by the Bulgarian Army:

(a) A Concept for Environmental Protection from the Influence of Adverse Anthropogenic and Natural Factors and for Environmental Protection has been developed and implemented in the areas and sites where the Bulgarian army carries out military activities;

(b) Ecological passports have been introduced and regularly maintained in the military units, and permanent commissions on environmental protection have been put in place to monitor the daily situation;

(c) In view of the complexity of the national ecological problem, activities are planned and carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and the "Civil Protection" State agency;

(d) A number of measures for protection of the environment during training of Bulgarian and international military contingents have been developed and applied in accordance with environmental protection norms;

(e) A special order has been established for the collection, transportation and permanent conservation of radioactive waste. Safety measures for the use and management of toxic chemical substances are being implemented;

(f) The Information Collection and Analysis Centre has been set up to take prompt decisions and immediate action for the protection of military personnel and the environment in case of emergencies and natural disasters. The Centre provides information in summary form on the radioactive and chemical situation on the territory of Bulgaria to the National Military Command Centre;

(g) Ecological monitoring and pollution control in the areas and sites in which the Bulgarian army is quartered are carried out by the Central Laboratory for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Protection and Ecological Control.

2. Experts from the Ministry of Defence are involved in development, coordination and endorsement of projects and the elaboration of legislative and governmental norms in the field of environmental protection.

## Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[23 April 2002]

With reference to your letter dated 20 March 2002 concerning the observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control, I wish to inform you, particularly in connection with nuclear weapons and materials, that we shall endeavour to observe international guidelines in this area through the local arrangements and directives issued by the

Jordanian Nuclear Energy Authority concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Please take any steps you consider appropriate to safeguard the interest of Jordan in the drafting of such agreements, bearing in mind that Jordan is a non-nuclear State.

## Poland

[Original: English]
[14 May 2002]

1. Poland attaches importance to the protection of the environment in formulating its policy. The Constitution of the Republic of Poland affirms that Poland "shall ensure the protection of the natural environment pursuant to the principles of sustainable development" (article 5). The Constitution also states that:

> "1. Public authorities shall pursue policies ensuring the ecological security of current and future generations.
>
> "2. Protection of the environment shall be the duty of public authorities.
>
> "3. Everyone shall have the right to be informed of the quality of the environment and its protection.
>
> "4. Public authorities shall support the activities to protect and improve the quality of the environment." (article 74)
>
> "Everyone shall care for the quality of the environment and shall be held responsible for causing its degradation. The principles of such responsibility shall be specified by statute." (article 86)

2. Accordingly, in order to realize the aforementioned principles as well as to honour Poland's international commitments, the following regulations provide specific measures:

- Law on the protection of the environment of 27 April 2001;
- Law on the common defence duty of 21 November 1967 (subsequently amended);
- Law on the office of the Ministry of National Defence of 14 December 1995;
- Regulations of the Council of Ministers on the bestowal charter of the Ministry of National Defence of 9 July 1996;
- Regulations of the Council of Ministers on detailed scope of activity of the Minister of National Defence of 9 July 1996;
- Decision No. 30 of the Minister of National Defence on the principles of the realization of tasks related to the protection of the environment in the Ministry of National Defence of 22 February 2001.

3. In the above-mentioned Decision No. 30, the Minister of National Defence imposes a duty of protecting the natural environment and resources upon each soldier and civil servant and also obligates persons in executive posts in the Ministry to organize undertakings in the full range of environmental protection and to create conditions for the observance of the relevant legal regulations.

4. Both the National Defence Strategy of the Republic of Poland, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 4 January 2000, and the Environmental Protection Policy of the Ministry of National Defence, issued by the Minister of National Defence, constitute the basis of the long-term programmes on environmental protection with respect to the implementation of obligations resulting from international agreements and military cooperation.

5. The fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction may serve as a good example of the compliance of Poland with environmental norms. The technology and equipment for destroying adamsite was prepared and brought into operation by Polish specialists under the observance of very rigorous norms, with special attention to the management of wastes and other by-products. The process was carried out under the supervision of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

## Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[29 April 2002]

Inasmuch as Qatar is bound by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and on the basis of its commitment to international instruments, to make the Middle East region a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, would be a major contribution to the establishment of peace, security and stability in the region. We emphasize that this initiative should be binding on all States without exception.